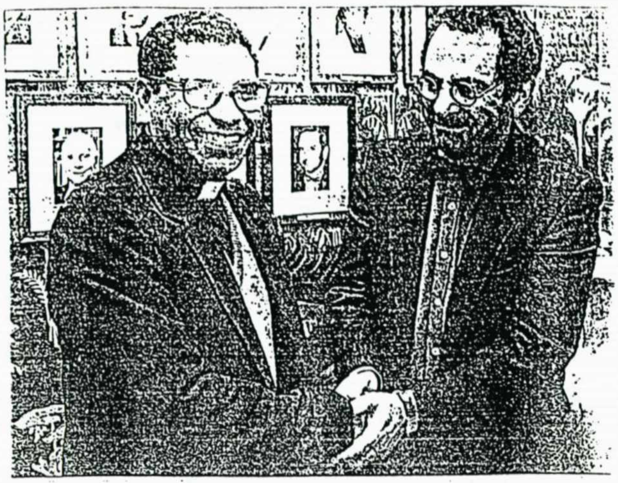
TL 3743



Nobel Peace Price for Bishop Belo and José Ramos-Horta.
The situation in East Timor has deteriorated even further since the award of the 1996 Nobel Prize.

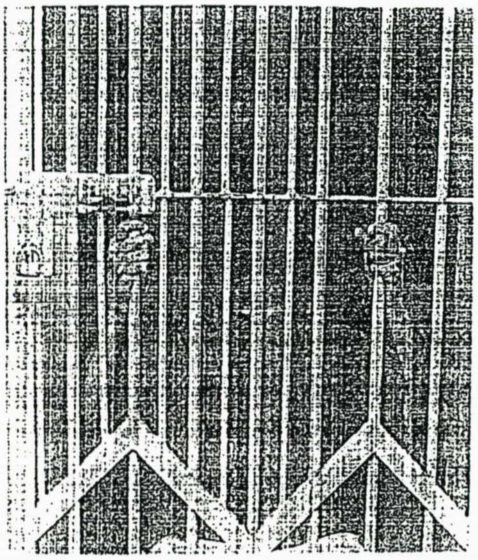
Prix Nobel de la Paix pour l'évêque Belo et José Ramos-Horta.
La situation au Timor Oriental s'est encore aggravée après l'attribution du Prix Nobel.

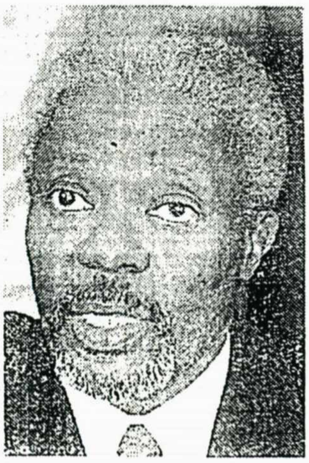
EAST TIMOR ORIENTAL

United Nations Human Rights Commission - 1997

The Indonesian Government has not co-operated with the United Nations.

Le Gouvernement de l'Indonésie n'a pas coopéré avec les Nations Unies.





The new United Nations Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan, has designated a special representative to work exclusively on the question of East Timor.

Le nouveau Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, M. Kofi Annan, a désigné un représentant spécial exclusivement chargé de la question du Timor Oriental.

Timor-Oriental et la comunauté internationale

21 ans d'occupation militaire indonésienne au Timor-Oriental.
21 ans de souffrances et violations qui n'ont jamais été un secret bien que, pour des raisons politico-stratégiques eles fussent étouffées.
2 résolutions du Conseil de Sécurité.
8 ans de résolutions de l'Assemblée Générale de l'ONU, auxquelles le Gouvernement de l'Indonésie n'a jamais donné suite.
12 ans de conversations sous les auspices du Secrétaire Général de l'ONU qui n'ont produit que des effets marginaux et peu relevants si on les compare à ce qui était l'objectif fixé par la résolution 37/30 de l'Assemblée Générale.
4 déclarations du Président de la Commission des Droits de l'Homme, par lesquelles le Gouvernement de l'Indonésie se compromettait sur des points concrets d'amélioration des droits de l'Homme mais que dans leur grande majorité il n'a pas respecté.

Jusques à quand la communauté internationale feindra-t-elle de croire que le Gouvernement de l'Indonésie est disposé à respecter les décisions de l'ONU sans qu'interviennent d'autres types de pressions?

Le Gouvernement de l'Indonésie refuse même de dialoguer avec les premiers intéressés, le peuple du Timor-Oriental et ses représentants reconnus: Xanana Gusmão, l'évêque Ximenes Belo et José Ramos-Horta, prix Nobel de la Paix.

Le Comité du Prix Nobel de la Paix a voulu éviter qu'un cas où "un tiers de la population a perdu la vie par la famine, les maladies, la guerre et la terreur... ne se transforme en un conflit oublié".

Le nouveau Secrétaire Général de l'ONU semble avoir été sensible à cet appel et en peu de mois d'exercice de ses fonctions il a nommé, pour la première fois en 21 ans, un représentant spécial exclusivement chargé de cette question. Pour la première fois en 21 ans le Secrétaire Général a reçu un représentant du peuple du Timor-Oriental en la personne de José Ramos-Horta.

Pour mener à bien sa mission le Secrétaire Général va avoir besoin de l'appui de tous les Gouvernements et de tous les organismes des Nations Unies.

A Paz é Possível em Timor-Leste
(La Paix est Possible au Timor Oriental)
Association Oecuménique

East Timor and the international community

21 years of Indonesian military occupation of East Timor.

21 years of suffering and violations that were always known about but which, for political and strategic reasons, were hushed up.

2 Security Council resolutions.

8 years of UN General Assembly resolutions, which the Indonesian Government chose to ignore.

12 years of talks, under the auspices of the UN Secretary General, that have resulted in marginal progress which, in the light of the aim of the talks as stated in the General Assembly's resolution 37/30, has been negligible.

4 Statements from the Chairperson of the of the UN Commission on Human Rights, through which the Indonesian Government committed itself to improving specific aspects of human rights but which it subsequently proceeded to ignore almost completely.

For how much longer is the international community going to go on pretending it believes that the Indonesian Government is willing to respect UN decisions without any further kind of pressure being brought to bear?

The Indonesian Government refuses point blank even to sit down and talk with the main interested party - the East Timorese and their acknowledged representatives: Xanana Gusmão and Nobel Peace Prize winners Bishop Ximenes Belo and José Ramos Horta.

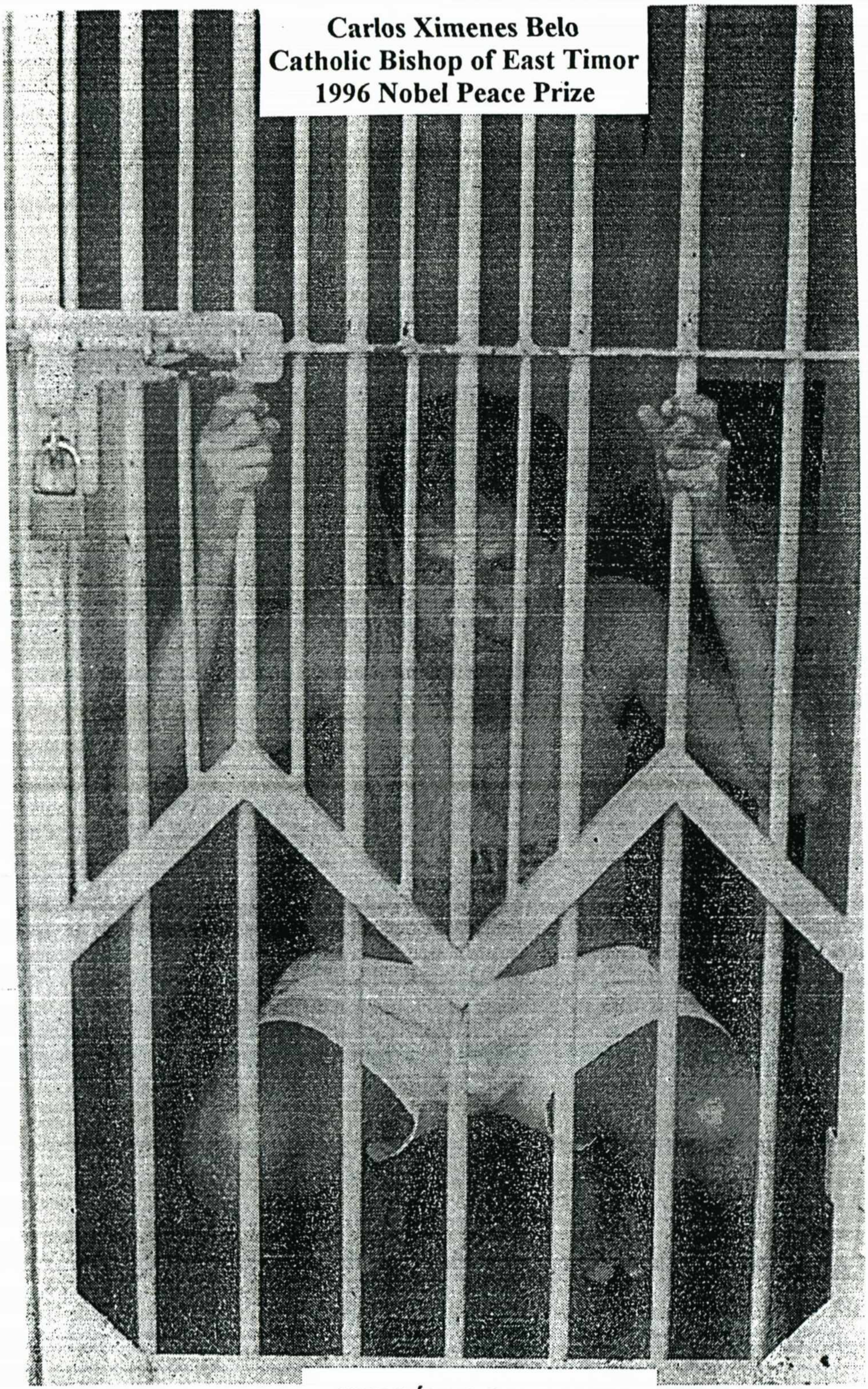
The Nobel Prize Committee stated that it wanted to prevent a case in which "one third of the population had died as a result of starvation, sickness, war and terror... " from "becoming a forgotten conflict".

The new UN Secretary General was quick to respond to this concern and, shortly after taking office, he appointed a special representative to deal solely with the question of East Timor. For the first time in 21 years, the UN Secretary General met, in his official capacity, a representative of the East Timorese - José Ramos Horta.

If his mission is to be successful, the Secretary General will need the support of all Governments, and all UN bodies.

A Paz é Possível em Timor-Leste
(Peace is Possible in East Timor)
Ecumenical association

A first step: Free the political prisoners



Carlos Ximenes Belo
Catholic Bishop of East Timor
1996 Nobel Peace Prize

GREGÓRIO SALDANHA
Life imprisonment
Semarang prison - Java

UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The organisers of the peaceful demonstration held on 12 November 1991, including Gregório Saldanha (sentenced to life imprisonment) and numerous other prisoners, whom the Indonesian Government agreed to release when it subscribed to the consensus statements from the Chairman in 1992, 1994, 1995 and 1996, are still in prison.

UNCHR - 1992 - Chairman's Statement

"Furthermore the Commission calls upon the Indonesian authorities to ensure that all civilians arrested on the occasion are treated humanely, that those brought to trial are assured to proper legal representation and fair trial and that those not involved in violent activities are released without delay".

UNCHR - 1993 - Resolution

"Also calls upon the Government of Indonesia to ensure that all the East Timorese in custody, including main public figures, be treated humanely and with their rights fully respected, that all trials be fair, just, public and recognise the right to proper legal representation, in accordance with international humanitarian law, and that those not involved in violent activities be released without delay".

UNCHR - 1994 - Chairman's Statement

"It calls upon the Indonesian authorities to ensure that those East Timorese in custody are treated humanely, and that their rights are fully respected, and to take further appropriate measures aimed at the early release of those convicted".

UNCHR - 1995 - Chairman's Statement

"It calls upon the Indonesian authorities to ensure that those East Timorese in custody are treated humanely, and that their rights are fully respected, and to take further appropriate measures aimed at the early release of those convicted".

UNCHR - 1996 - Chairman's Statement

"It calls upon the Indonesian authorities to ensure that all those in custody are treated humanely, and their rights fully respected, and to take further appropriate measures aimed at the early release of those convicted".

The following are excerpts from an interview with Gregório Saldanha (the questions had to be smuggled in and answers smuggled out of Semarang prison), published in the Portuguese daily "Publico" on 12 November 1996.

Q. What is your daily routine in prison?
A. So far, I have served 5 years of my life sentence... I spend my time praying, saying the rosary, reading the Bible ... To keep fit I do exercises daily. I read... and try to improve my Portuguese and English ...I can't say we are being treated well. The jailers...deny us our right to correspond with our friends outside ...

Q. What do you think about the diplomatic talks on East Timor?
A. ...I fully support the negotiations... but they will be totally useless if Timorese political leaders are not given an opportunity to express their views on the future of our country. It is unfair that East Timor is being discussed and decided by Indonesia and Portugal alone, while the Timorese are restricted to being mere onlookers ...

Q. Since Xanana Gusmao's life sentence was commuted to 20 years, you are now the Timorese political prisoner with the longest sentence...
A. ...I'm better off than my dear compatriots who were just barbarously murdered ... By giving me a life sentence, Indonesia was hoping to extinguish the spirit and courage of the Timorese, especially its youth..

Another prisoner described conditions in custody:

(...) Altogether there were 12 Timorese political prisoners ... we were kept totally isolated from everyone else, including our families...
For 8 months, we were confined to one cell, that had a tank of water and latrine. For 4 of those months, we never even saw daylight. At 7 am, midday and again at 5 pm, the prisoners working in the kitchen would bring us food (...) without ever uttering a word to us...
Let me mention the secret detention centres in East Timor... They are usually houses that are taken over by the Indonesian forces... like the coffee warehouse in the grounds of a beautiful house.
They transformed the inside into over a dozen cells ... measuring 1 m by 1.5 m, with no ventilation. The heat inside is unbearable. Beer tins have been left in each cell for the prisoners to use as toilets. The cells are in permanent darkness, and too small for the prisoners to even lie down properly. Inside, you feel totally cut off from the rest of the world even though, in fact, you are in the middle of the city of Dili.

The New York Times

OP-ED *TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1996*

Time for Peace in East Timor

By Carlos Ximenes Belo

The time has come to end the tragedy in East Timor once and for all. After 21 years of conflict, people in this former Portuguese colony want calm, an end to violence and respect for their human rights.

We knew misery in the early part of this century, when Portugal cruelly put down a nationalist rebellion. Then came a harsh occupation by Japanese troops during World War II, when our people paid a severe price for helping Allied forces survive: More than one-tenth of the population of what was then called Portuguese Timor perished as a result.

From 1975 on, there has been conflict with Indonesia. As the Nobel Institute in Oslo and several international organizations have reported, an estimated one-third of the population — some 200,000 people — died as a result of the war and related starvation and disease.

A first step: Free the political prisoners.

For the most part, the East Timorese people still cannot travel and speak without fear of the Indonesian military and police. I say this as one in whom many have confided deeply since 1981, when I returned from my priestly studies abroad. People pour out their sorrows and pains, and the Timorese who speak through me belong to all age groups, to various religions and are from different places of origin, within East Timor and outside.

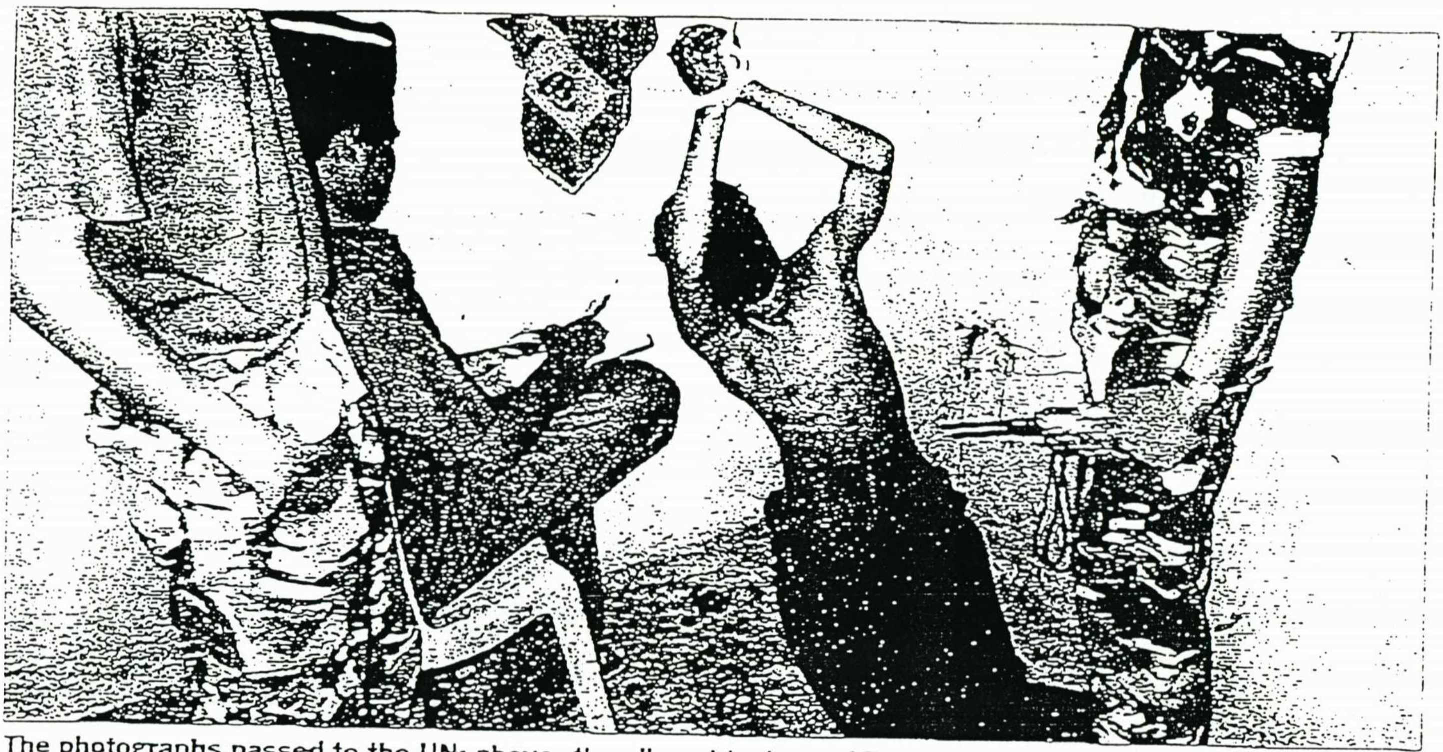
I am fully aware of the norms of the Roman Catholic Church, which demands that its religious leaders refrain from activity specific to the field of politicians. But as a bishop I have the moral duty to speak for the poor and simple people who, intimidated and terrorized, cannot defend themselves or make their suffering known.

This past summer, the United Nations convened the latest round of talks between Indonesia and Portugal about the future of East Timor. There were no concrete results, but another session is expected in the coming months. It is worth recalling that the United Nations assisted Indonesia's nationalist movement in the late 1940's when it struggled alone against Dutch colonialism for independence.

After all these years of suffering, people in East Timor want to see real change. A modest first step would be the release of East Timorese political prisoners, a step that could renew hopes for peace and help the next round of United Nations-sponsored talks.

I hope East Timorese prisoners will be released from their jail cells in time for Christmas. Indonesian independence leaders were freed in 1949 after a United Nations initiative. History has so much to teach us. ☐

Carlos Ximenes Belo, the Roman Catholic Bishop of East Timor, is a co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize.



The photographs passed to the UN: above, the alleged torture of Timorese prisoners by Indonesian troops, one said to be holding an electric prod, and below, soldiers shovelling dirt onto corpses in a shallow grave.

EAST TIMOR

UN urged to investigate 'torture' photos

By CRAIG SKEHAN
in Canberra

Graphic photographs purporting to show the torture and burial of East Timorese dissidents by the Indonesian military have been passed to the United Nations for investigation by a leader of the Timorese independence movement, Mr Jose Ramos-Horta.

"We are prepared to accept an investigation to ascertain whether these things happened," Mr Ramos-Horta said by telephone from Geneva.

He said the photographs had been sent to representatives of the independence movement from a person living in the Ainaro district about 100 kilometres from the capital of East mor, Dili.

They were given to Mr Ramos-Horta as Special Representative of the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM), an umbrella body linking East Timorese independence groups.

The call for a UN investigation into the claims has been supported by the Australia-based East Timor Human Rights Centre which also received copies of the photographs from East Timor.

A spokeswoman for the centre, Ms Maria Brett, yesterday backed the call for a full investigation of the photographs, and said her organisation would send them to Amnesty International in London. "Our people have studied the photographs closely and it is our belief they are genuine," she said.

Asked if the centre was 100 per cent satisfied the pictures were genuine, Ms Brett replied: "I would not use the words 100 per cent, but we have very reliable sources in East Timor and we can rely on those sources."

The photographs appear to show young Timorese men bound hand-and-foot and blindfolded being interrogated and tortured, in one case with an electric prod. Another picture shows several young men in a shallow grave with a military officer shovelling in dirt.

The photographs were released as the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexander Downer, made his first visit to Indonesia where he discussed human rights in East Timor along with other issues.

While the authenticity of the photographs is in question, Mr Ramos-Horta said he believed they were genuine and that checks with sources in East Timor during the past few days had indicated the pictures were taken in the Ainaro district early last year.

A priest who had worked in the area had told him he thought he recognised some of the young men in the photographs as having been from the area, but he could not make a positive identification because the men were blindfolded.

"My own information is that the photographs were taken in January last year in the Ainaro district," Mr Ramos-Horta said. Pro-independence protests and a sit-in at the United States Embassy in Jakarta during a conference of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group had resulted in detentions throughout Timor.

"Particularly in Ainaro, there were many interrogations and much suffering," he said. Because of the continuing crackdown by the Indonesian military in the area, it had not been possible to contact the source of the photographs to get more detailed information.

Mr Ramos-Horta was yesterday accompanying four East Timorese who are giving evidence to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, including one man who will show scars which allegedly resulted from Indonesian soldiers nailing his feet to wooden planks.

Mr Ramos-Horta said the photographs had been given to the Portuguese Government and the European Union, as well as specialist UN agencies, for further investigation.

The Morning Herald
18/4/96

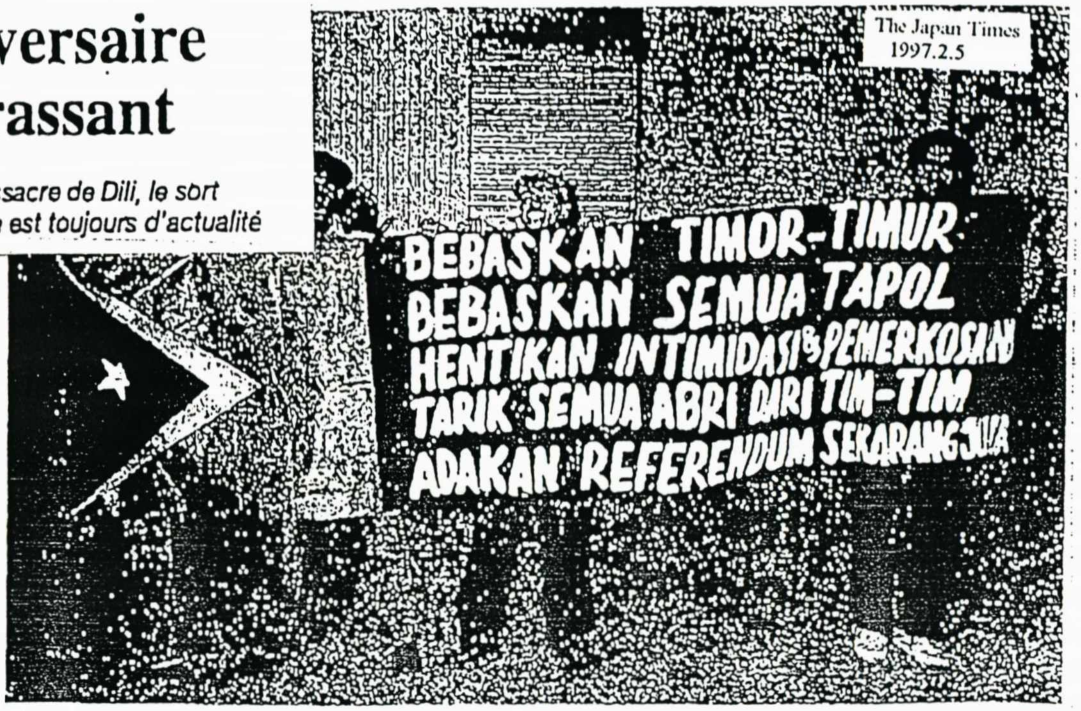
Libre Belgique
1996.11.13

Un anniversaire embarrassant

Cinq ans après le massacre de Dili, le sort de l'ex-colonie portugaise est toujours d'actualité

La commémoration, mardi, du massacre de Dili, le 12 novembre 1991, s'est accompagnée de nouvelles manifestations, tant dans la capitale indonésienne que dans celle de Timor oriental, alors que quatre nationalistes de Timor-Est trouvaient refuge à l'ambassade d'Espagne à Jakarta, dans l'espoir d'obtenir asile au Portugal. Parmi eux figure un récidiviste, Alberto da Silva, qui avait déjà pénétré dans l'enceinte de l'ambassade de France, dans la nuit du 15 au 16 octobre dernier, avant d'en être brutalement expulsé par les services de sécurité.

C'est la dixième fois cette année, et la vingtième depuis septembre 1993, que des opposants à l'occupation indonésienne de Timor oriental, occupent une ambassade étrangère à Jakarta. Généralement, ces


BEBASKAN TIMOR-TIMUR
BEBASKAN SEMUA TAPOL
HENTIKAN INTIMIDASI & PEMERKOSAAN
TARIK SEMUA ABRI DARI TIM-TIM
ADAKAN REFERENDUM SEKARANG JUGA

The Japan Times
1997.2.5

FOUR EAST TIMORESE MEN hold a banner incorporating the East Timor independence movement's flag and a number of slogans in the grounds of the French Embassy on Tuesday after they jumped the fence and sought political asylum in France. The banner reads in Indonesian: "Free East Timor; free all political prisoners; stop intimidation and rape; withdraw the Indonesian armed forces from East Timor," and "hold a referendum." REUTER PHOTO

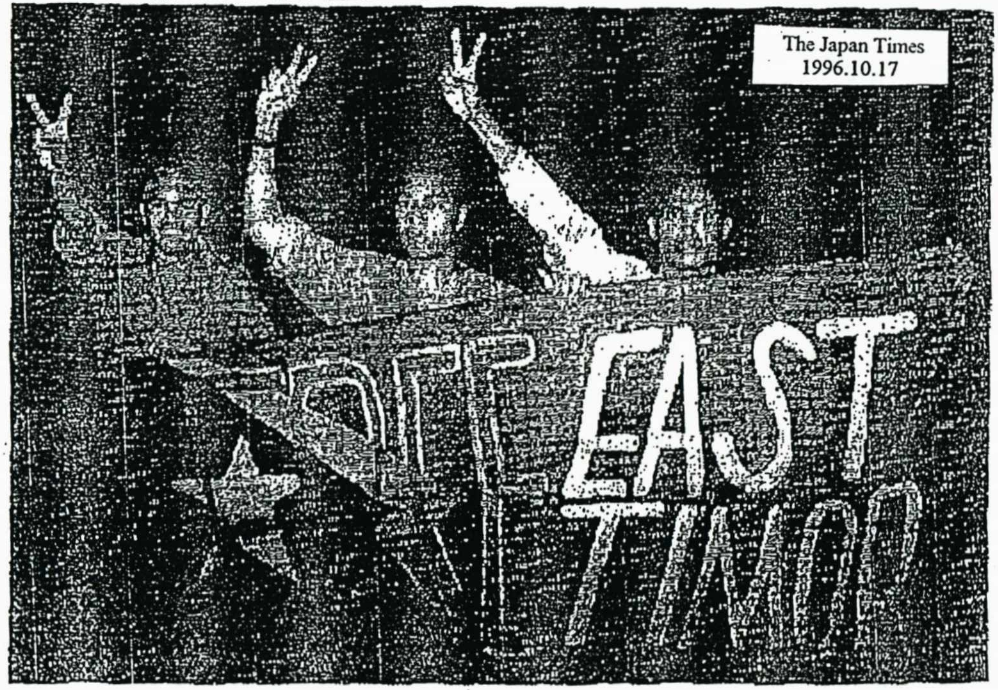
East African Standard
1996.4.19

Youths storm Dutch embassy in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Thursday

FOUR East Timorese youths burst into the Dutch mission in Jakarta today in the latest

pound and were then beaten up.



The Japan Times
1996.10.17

THREE MEN FROM East Timor are seen Wednesday inside the French Embassy compound in Jakarta after breaking into the embassy by scaling the compound's spiked iron fence. From left: the men are Sabino D'Arujo, Anatolio Francesco Arujo and Alberto Da Silva. REUTER PHOTO

The Camberra Times
1996.8.18

Eight East Timorese seek refuge

JAKARTA, Saturday: Eight East Timorese who took refuge in the French Embassy in Jakarta would be permitted to remain until at least tomorrow afternoon before departing Indonesia, sources said today.

After spending a quiet night last night in the embassy chancery, the group planned to leave the country for Portugal via Amsterdam, but today's celebrations marking Indonesia's 51st Independence Day had impeded their immediate departure.

In what has become a well-practised scenario, the eight expect to depart tomorrow afternoon.

It is the 15th time since last September that East Timorese have sought refuge in a foreign embassy in the capital and have subsequently been allowed to leave for Portugal.

Indonesian authorities do not consider East Timorese have any claims to political asylum and, insisting they have freedom of movement, do not impede their departure from the country.

The former Portuguese colony of East Timor was invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and annexed the following year. The United Nations still recognises Portugal as its administrator. — AFP

THE NATION
Saturday, April 20, 1996

Timor asylum-seekers test world conscience

Since last October, nearly 200 young East Timorese men and women have sought refuge in eight foreign embassies in Jakarta. (...), their only choice has been to go to Portugal, which has received more than 75 in the past few months.

(...) Without doubt, these young people are fleeing persecution in East Timor, where the repression continues to intensify. Before Indonesia's invasion in 1975, there was no tradition of emigration from East Timor - where as a Pacific people, attachments to land and family are very strong. But the military repression in their homeland is so brutal that they feel forced to flee, to live as exiles in Portugal, Australia and elsewhere.

The latest wave is particulary alarming. These are desperate youngster who have grow up under the Indonesian "education" but who have been driven to escape it by two decades of torture, killings, rape and disappearances.

The embassy asylum-seekers confront the international community with a new and alarming phenomenon, which forces governments to make immediate decisions which will affect not only the future of the individuals' lives they hold in their embassy grounds, but the future of the nation of East Timor.

The incident at the German embassy clearly contravenes international law, for countries which have signed international covenants on human rights must duly consider all applications for political asylum, and embassy premises cannot be entered by Indonesian personnel without permission.

Packed off to Lisbon.

The circumstances that led to the asylum-seekers being forced to go to Portugal seem very unclear. Ironically, there are certain countries which are reluctant to accept the UN's recognition of Portugal as the administering power of East Timor. But when Timorese asylum-seekers enter their embassy premises they are conveniently packed off to Lisbon.

Because of this, a mechanism should be established for asylum-seekers to communicate their wishes and make their decisions in a non-coerced manner. To facilitate matters, Portuguese government officials together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) should be able to meet each individual asylum-seeker before he or she is sent to Lisbon. Since Portugal does not have diplomatic relations with Indonesia, the UN could help implement this.

As numerous resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly have stated, Indonesia's brutal invasion and occupation of East Timor creates an international responsibility. And accepting refugees is part of that responsibility.

The tragedy of East Timor is still a long way from resolution. In the late 20th century, Indonesia may at last be realizing that Third World colonialism tends to create its own gravediggers.

The Nation (Bangkok)
Editorial - 20/4/96

U.S. Department of State

Indonesia Report on Human Rights Practices for 1996

Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, January 30, 1997.

The Government continued to commit serious human rights abuses. Rising pressures for change, including those by political activists and opponents, triggered tough government actions that further infringed on fundamental rights. The authorities maintained their tight grip on the political process, which denies citizens the ability to change their government democratically. In other areas, such as increased police and army accountability for abuses, the decline in extra-legal executions, access to prisoners, the variety of information sources, and tolerance of public criticism, there were encouraging signs along with substantial grounds for continuing concern. Reports of extrajudicial killings--including of unarmed civilians, disappearances, and torture and mistreatment of detainees by security forces continued. In practice, legal protections against torture are inadequate, and security forces continued to torture and mistreat detainees, particularly in regions such as Irian Jaya and East Timor. There were persistent reports that some of the detainees seized by the Government

In East Timor, still troubled by a low-level insurgency and a disaffected indigenous population that generally resents Indonesian rule and has inadequate opportunity to determine its own affairs, there were further instances of killings, disappearances, torture, and excessive use of force by the military and insurgents. Respected observers noted a decrease in serious incidents, but 1996 Nobel Peace Prize co-laureate Bishop Belo said that it would be a mistake to conclude that the human rights environment in East Timor was improving. No progress was made in accounting for the missing persons following the 1991 Dili incident or the others who disappeared in 1995-96. Troop levels remained unjustifiably high. The Government granted limited access to the area to foreign journalists but banned travel by all foreign human rights NGO's except the ICRC. In several cases, the Indonesian military punished abuses by its personnel. The National Human Rights

Commission in a small, symbolically important step--whose practical effect remains to be seen--opened a branch office in Dili. Young disgruntled East Timorese mounted repeated intrusions into embassies in Jakarta seeking asylum and publicity for their cause.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from:

a. Political and Other Extrajudicial Killings

Historically, politically related extrajudicial killings have occurred most frequently in areas where separatist movements were active, such as East Timor, Aceh, and Irian Jaya. Security forces continued to employ harsh measures against separatist movements in East Timor and Irian Jaya. Although the Government claims that the "Aceh Merdeka" movement has been eliminated, Aceh is still officially listed as one of Indonesia's three "trouble spots" (along with East Timor and Irian Jaya), and the Government has issued public calls for the "rebels" to come home to their families. There are credible reports that the Aceh Merdeka movement still exists, but its activities are now underground. Security forces in East Timor killed two unarmed civilians in April in separate unrelated incidents. On April 25, near Baucau an unarmed East Timorese civilian allegedly attempted to escape questioning by security personnel and was killed when one of them fired what was described as a warning shot. A military officer was convicted of accidentally killing the victim. On April 28, in Dili a member of the security forces fired on and killed an unarmed civilian during an altercation caused because the victim was allegedly burning an Indonesian flag. In early August, a student was killed after quarreling with soldiers and them seeking to escape arrest.

b. Disappearance

There were no new efforts by the Government to account for the missing and dead from the November 12, 1991 military shooting of civilians in Dili, East Timor. Of those still listed as missing in a report that the military gave to Human Rights Watch/Asia, no additional cases were resolved during the year. Knowledgeable observers continued to believe that most of the missing are dead and that members of the armed forces know where their bodies are located.

c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Criminal Code makes it a crime punishable by up to 4 years in prison for any official to use violence or force to elicit a confession. It establishes pretrial procedures to give suspects or their families the right to challenge the legality of an arrest or detention. In practice, however, legal protections are both inadequate and widely ignored, and security forces continued to employ torture and other forms of mistreatment, particularly in regions where there were active security concerns, such as Irian Jaya and East Timor. Police often resort to physical abuse, even in minor incidents.

In East Timor, military units regularly detain civilians for interrogation; often these civilians are mistreated for several days and then released. According to credible reports, in January security forces seized nine East Timorese from their homes in the Zumlai "Kecamatan" because they were suspected of cooperating with guerrilla forces. One of the detainees alleged that they had been beaten and mistreated, including being placed in a small underground hole. There were other reports that military and police units make frequent use of random torture against young men to maintain order in urban areas of East Timor. Credible sources reported that on November 27, following the stoning of police hut in Baucau, police entered a high school student dormitory and arbitrarily detained and severely beat two students.

In Irian Jaya, after an investigation, reliable sources concluded that all 130 persons detained during the March 18-20 demonstrations and rioting in Jayapura were mistreated and that some were tortured.

The Government continued to maintain an excessive military presence in East Timor. Taking advantage of high unemployment among young men ABRI recruited local East Timorese to constitute an East Timorese force subordinate to ABRI. Some East Timorese sources charged this force with human rights abuses as well. The Government, as it does elsewhere, also relied on bands of youths, organized and directed by the Government, to intimidate and harass its opponents in East Timor.

d. Arbitrary Arrest, Detention, or Exile

According to credible reports, numerous individuals were seized from their homes in Dili and arbitrarily detained in February. There were similar reports of persons being arbitrarily detained in Baucau in November, and in Viqueque in December. According to a report from a foreign human rights group, four Irianese were detained in March due to a peaceful protest they carried out in Jakarta. Without being informed of the charges, they were held incommunicado for over a week and then released. Documents confiscated from one of these individuals were not returned.

Section 4. Governmental Attitude Regarding International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Violations of Human Rights

While receiving support for its work from the Government in principle, the ICRC periodically faced difficulty in implementing its humanitarian program in East Timor. The ICRC no longer maintains an office in Irian Jaya, but it visits that province from Jakarta several times a year. The ICRC was deeply involved in the attempt to negotiate an end to the January-May hostage crisis in Irian Jaya, working in close collaboration with the Government to achieve a nonviolent end to that crisis. The ICRC also visits Aceh regularly, but the Government has not approved the ICRC's request to open an office there. Travel to East Timor by foreign human rights NGO's has not been approved. Domestic human rights organizations are able to visit East Timor.

Réunis à Oslo

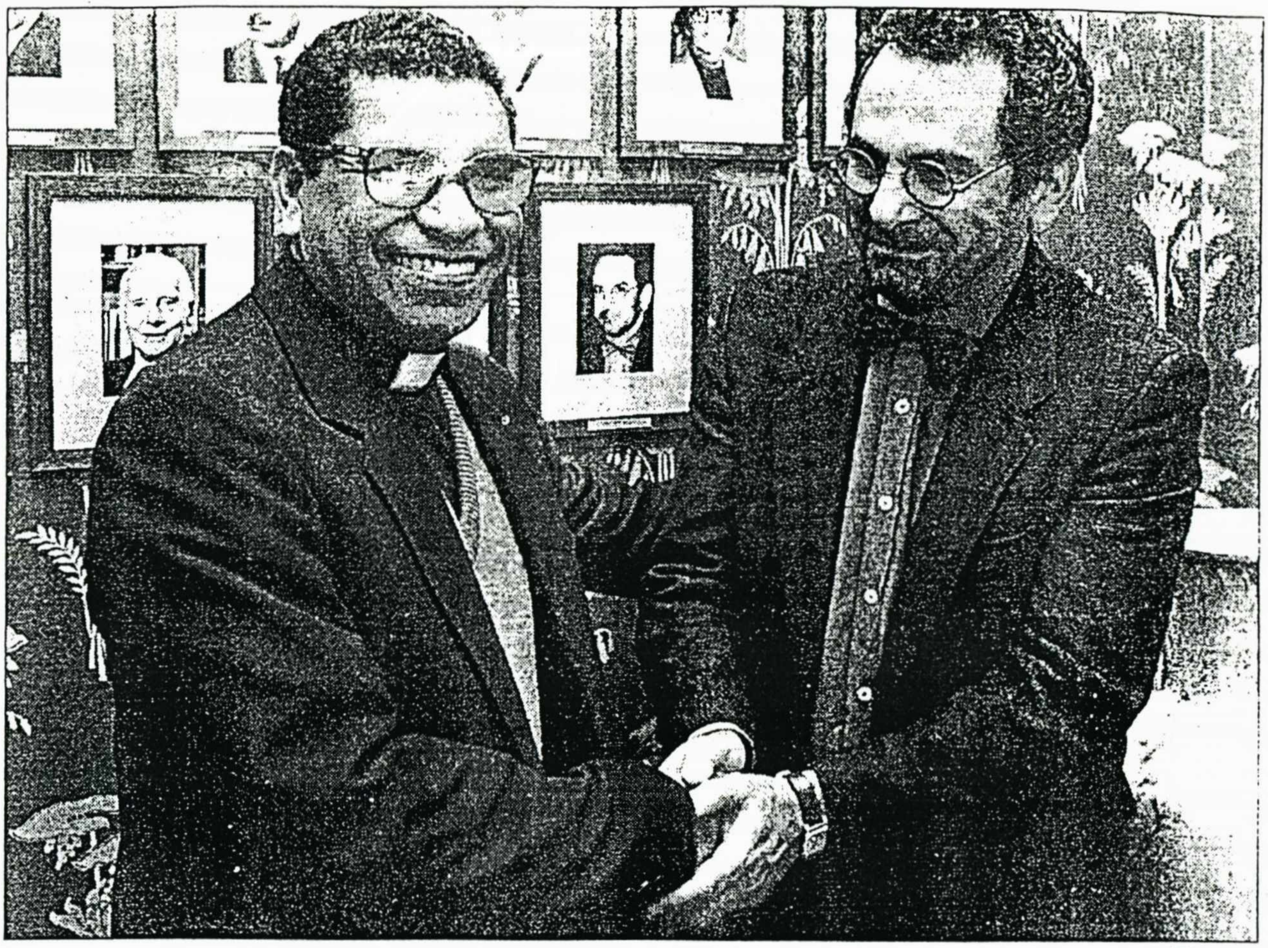


PHOTO AP

MGR Ximenes Belo et José Ramos Horta, lauréats du prix Nobel de la paix cette année, se sont rencontrés hier à Oslo à la veille de la cérémonie officielle de remise du prix. Le président, le premier ministre et le ministre des Affaires étrangères portugais participeront aujourd'hui à la cérémonie officielle de remise de prix Nobel à l'hôtel de ville d'Oslo ainsi que le président du Mozambique, le ministre des affaires étrangères angolais et l'ancien président brésilien Itamar Franco, ambassadeur aux Nations unies.

Le Devoir (Montreal)
1996.12.10

The Lecture given by The Chairman of The
Norwegian Nobel Committee Francis Sejersted

The conflict in East Timor has been called "the forgotten conflict". It has not, however, been completely forgotten, having figured on the international agenda, with varying degreees of prominence, throughout those twenty years. But it has so to speak never caught on. There have been so many other interests and regards to attend to, and East Timor is so small. Rarely has the cynicism of world politics been more clearly demonstrated. The numerous considerations of "Realpolitik" have enabled an exceptionally brutal form of neocolonialism to take place. Of a population of between six and seven hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand have died as the direct or indirect result of the Indonesian occupation. And the violations are still taking place today. Many are the countries which have given higher priority to their "Realpolitical" cooperation with Indonesia than to regard for East Timor. This is the apparently hopeless situation in which our two Laureates have so untiringly striven for a just and peaceful arrangement for their people.

It has been said that Indonesia's annexation of East Timor is a historic fact. But history has never established anything as a fact for ever. History always moves on. If we have learned anything in the past decade, it must be that the most repressive regimes are the most fragile. There are forces in history more powerful than the strongest military force. Violence and terror do not lead to peace. Not until one builds up the courage to break out of the vicious circle of violence do opportunities arise for an enduring peace.

Peace, stability and harmony must be based on mutual respect. That, so simple and so universal, is the message. Once it has been heard, the next step is to institutionalise the respect, in various ways according to cultural traditions. Violence, on the other hand, systematic violence on the part of those in power, can never be justified within the framework of a universal concept of human rights. That is a fact to which the victims of violence could testify. Never forget to listen to the voice of the victims, the voice of the nearly two hundred thousand whose lives were lost in massacres or from the hunger and want which resulted from the Indonesian invasion of East Timor.

The Nobel Lecture given by The Nobel Peace Prize
- Laureate 1996 Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo

It is known to your Excellencies, the effort of the Church concerning the suffering of the people of East Timor over the last twenty one years. As Bishop of this people, I regard the Nobel Peace Prize not as something to merely esteem one person but as the rightful homage for the work done by the Catholic Church in East Timor, defending the inalienable rights of her people.

Man is a being realized when there is a reciprocity of respect. It means that wherever human beings are not respected in their elementary rights by those in charge or by those responsible in society, as a consequence, we have oppression, slavery, arrogance, arbitrariness, death of individuals and death of a people.

The world censures those who take up arms to defend their causes and call on them to use non-violent means in voicing their grievances. But when a people chooses the non-violent path, it is all too often the case that hardly anyone pays attention. It is tragic that people have to suffer and die and the television cameras have to deliver the pictures to people's homes everyday before the world at large admits there is a problem. Therein lies the enormous significance and the brave wisdom of the decision of the Nobel Committee to focus on East Timor this year; it represents the extraordinary recognition of East Timor's quest for peace and the recognition of its pleas for an end to suffering.

There is no institution that can take the place of the United Nations, especially in the light of the history and credibility of the world organization. We can not overlook the fact that the United Nations played an important role from its earliest days in the 1940's in assisting the struggle of Indonesia's nationalist movement.

People in East Timor are not uncompromising. They are not unwilling to forgive and overcome their bitterness. On the contrary, they yearn for peace, peace within their community and peace in their region. They wish to build bridges with their Indonesian brothers and sisters to find ways of creating harmony and tolerance.

Independent human rights officials have repeatedly visited East Timor and have recommended what needs to be done. As a first step, the release of East Timor political prisoners has to be given urgent attention, in accordance with the section on Humanitarianism in the Panca Sila, The Five Principles of Indonesia's State Ideology. Such a step would help create an important opening on the road to peace.

Making mine this same appeal, I say: "Stop bloodshed." And I add: Stop oppression. Stop violence. Stop conflict. Let us sit down around a table and understand each other, because we can not tolerate extending for a long time the suffering of the people of East Timor. I think this is the fundamental intention of the Nobel Committee in awarding to us the prize, expressed on behalf of its president, Mr. Francis Sejersted.

The Nobel Lecture given by The Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1996 José Ramos-Horta

My deepest appreciation goes to the Nobel Committee for having chosen us for the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize. Your generosity in thinking of the wretched of the earth, and your courage in standing up to the might of States, the cynicism and indifference of too many, betrayal by some, tells also a lot about the soul and history of courage of this great country of yours that fought bravely during World War II.

In recent years Norway has played a central role in fostering dialogue and peace among historical enemies. In the Middle East and Central America, your discreet nature, determination and creativity have proven that some of the world's seemingly intractable conflicts can be resolved when there is an honest mediator and when the parties in the conflict are willing to end the war.

The right of the people of East Timor to self-determination

The right of the people of East Timor to self--determination is widely recognised. Apart from the former Spanish territory of Western Sahara, East Timor is the largest non-self-governing territory in the UN GA decolonization list which dates back to 1960.

The UN General Assembly and Security Council have adopted a total of 10 resolutions on the question of East Timor all reaffirming this right.

In its ruling of 30 June 1995 on the *Case Concerning East Timor, Portugal Vs Australia*, the International Court of Justice stated that the right of self-determination has an erga omnes character and that the people of East Timor are entitled to it.

Our vision for the future

East Timor is at the cross-roads of three major cultures: Melanesian which binds us to our brothers and sisters of the South Pacific region; Malay-Polynesian binding us to Southeast Asia; and the Latin Catholic influence, a legacy of almost 500 years of Portuguese colonisation. This rich historical and cultural existence places us in a unique position to build bridges of dialogue and co-operation between the peoples of the region.

Fostering a democratic and peaceful transition in Indonesia

No country, no matter how rich and endowed with natural resources, is an island into itself. In an increasingly smaller world and competitive age, where modern electronic communications break the barriers of silence erected by dictators, Indonesia cannot continue to flout the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination and the rule of law in Indonesia.

The next two to three years will witness a transition in Indonesia. Australia, New Zealand, the US, Canada and the EU can encourage a peaceful, evolutionary transition with a discreet yet firm policy of pushing for democratic reforms and rule of law in Indonesia and for a genuine act of self-determination in East Timor.

Human rights and "Asian values"

The peoples of Burma, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea, and the democracy movements in China and Indonesia are telling the rest of the world that democracy and human rights are not an invention of the West.

The Nobel Foundation
Stockholm 1996

Spotlight on E. Timor

SINCE the mid-1970s, the struggle of the East Timorese people to loosen Indonesia's iron grip on their political and cultural lives has occasionally broken into public view, often because of some particularly vicious act of repression.

But the relative obscurity of East Timor, located on the edge of the Indonesian archipelago and stuck on the fringes of the world's political consciousness, may have ended last week. Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo and José Ramos-Horta, leading voices for East Timorese human rights and independence, became this year's Nobel Peace Prize winners.

The Nobel committee was frank about its reasons for choosing this pair of crusaders. It noted the 20-year resistance to Indonesian rule, during which thousands of East Timorese have been killed. Catholic East Timorese emphasize their cultural and religious distinctiveness from largely Muslim Indonesia and demand self-determination. This week Bishop Belo made a renewed plea for a referendum on autonomy to end the conflict and decide East Timor's future.

Such proposals find no response in the Indonesian capital. The Suharto government says it was invited in by the East Timorese originally after Portugal's colonial reign ended, and Jakarta has mercilessly stamped out dissension and protest since.

The Nobel panel wanted to do what it could to assure that East Timor's campaigners for human rights don't simply fade from view altogether. Indonesia, after all, is a rapidly expanding economic power with growing political clout in the world. Its desire to bury the East Timor issue has been quietly honored in many capitals – including Washington, where, ironically, a controversy over Indonesian contributions to the Clinton reelection campaign has popped up in tandem with the Nobel Peace Prize story. The United States, in fact, has consistently sided with Indonesia, opposing United Nations moves favoring self-determination for the East Timorese.

The Nobel award won't change things quickly. Peace laureates win increased recognition for their causes, but the prize can't guarantee them what they most want – a real breakthrough. Mr. Ramos-Horta and Bishop Belo are probably not going to see instant shifts in Indonesian policy toward East Timor.

But tolerance and compromise may yet win out. At the least, Indonesia's government, sensitive to world opinion, may come to recognize it has an interest in opening a dialogue with the East Timorese.

For now, however, President Suharto has indicated there's nothing to talk about – that the annexation is irreversible. But Indonesia's political climate may be changing. At the least, the Nobel award could help the East Timorese retain a voice, until such time as Jakarta is ready to listen.

The Christian Science Monitor
1996.10.16

ASIA

The Economist
1996.12.14

East Timor

Out, damned spot

JAKARTA

ALI ALATAS, Indonesia's foreign minister, says that his government was left "astounded and completely at a loss", by the award of this year's Nobel peace prize to two of the staunchest critics of Indonesian rule in East Timor. Had the prize gone to Bishop Carlos Felipe Belo alone, says Mr Alatas, Indonesia would not have objected. But by jointly awarding it to the pro-independence campaigner, Jose Ramos Horta, Mr Alatas said the Nobel committee had made a misguided decision that would hinder the search for an internationally acceptable solution to the problem of the territory annexed by Indonesia in 1975.

Leaders hit back at bishop

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
in Jakarta

Indonesian leaders hit back yesterday at comments by Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Carlos Belo saying Indonesian soldiers treated East Timorese like "dogs".

Defence Minister Edi Sudrajat said: "I can only ask, whether it is appropriate for Belo, even more so from someone who was awarded a Noble prize, to say such words."

State Secretary Murdiono said: "From the beginning, I have questioned the criteria used by the Nobel committee to choose Jose Ramos Horta and Belo."

Indonesia was stunned last month after the Catholic bishop of East Timor and exiled East Timorese fighter Mr Horta were declared joint winners of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize.

In an interview published by German magazine *Der Spiegel* shortly after, Bishop Belo said Indonesian soldiers "who have robbed us of our freedom and damaged our culture treat us like dogs".

He said Indonesians viewed East Timorese as "slaves".

Bishop Belo also said the East Timorese population wanted to have their own independent state, even if they were poor.

South China Morning Post
1996.11.2

EAST TIMOR

The Sydney Morning Herald
1996.11.18

Cheering 200,000 welcome Belo home

Dili: More than 200,000 East Timorese mobbed Dili's airport on Saturday to welcome Bishop Carlos Belo home from a trip to Jakarta, where the Nobel peace laureate faced criticism for negative comments about Indonesia's control of the territory.

The airport came to a standstill amid a sea of cheering supporters who arrived by car, bicycle and foot after three days of pro-Belo demonstrations in the streets of Dili, the East Timorese capital.

The crowd – which made up nearly one-third of East Timor's population of 750,000 – was the biggest gathering in the predominantly Catholic territory's history, surpassing the 100,000 people who greeted Pope John Paul II during a visit in 1989.

"We have never seen such a spontaneous crowd and huge crowd as this one," said Theresia Sufa, a reporter for the Dili newspaper *Voice of East Timor*.

The protesters carried banners expressing support for Bishop Belo and attacking Indonesian officials. Some said: "Bishop Belo Belongs to East Timor", "Do Not Touch Bishop Belo" and "Long Live Bishop Belo".

The massive show of support prompted a strong warning from the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Alatas, that Bishop Belo should stay out of politics.

"The Indonesian Government has always recognised and respected Bishop Belo in his position as leader of the Catholic Church in East Timor but takes strong exception [to] him engaging in politics," Mr Alatas was quoted by the official Antara news agency as saying yesterday.

"We object to him engaging in politics. That is not what the Vatican expects him to do in his position as Bishop of Dili."

Mr Alatas, speaking in Rome after a meeting with his Vatican counterpart, said Indonesia's stance was fully supported by the Vatican.

Bishop Belo, who had been in Jakarta since last Monday for a meeting of Indonesian bishops, appeared surprised at the huge turnout. Wearing his customary white robe and red skullcap, he smiled and waved after being met outside his plane by officials including Colonel Sukotjo, Deputy Commander of the Indonesian troops in East Timor.

Bishop Belo ... seemed surprised at huge turnout.

The bishop was led to a waiting car and driven to a cathedral about four kilometres away.

Hundreds of riot police with clubs and tear gas had followed the crowd to the airport but took no action. Two battalions of soldiers with automatic rifles were posted around the airport but no violence was reported.

The bishop was a joint winner of the Nobel Peace Prize last month for pressing Indonesia, which invaded East Timor in 1975, to reach a peace settlement in its bloody fight to crush East Timor's independence movement.

About 2,000 supporters of Indonesia's ruling Golkar party demonstrated against Bishop Belo last week in Jakarta over negative comments about Indonesian rule that he apparently made to a German magazine. The bishop's supporters responded with protests by thousands of Timorese in Dili.

Associated Press, Reuter

Belo calls for a new beginning

By PATRICK WALTERS in Dili

NOBEL laureate Bishop Carlos Belo made an impassioned plea for a new beginning in East Timor's relations with Jakarta yesterday as several hundred East Timorese in Dili unfurled pro-independence banners carrying portraits of jailed resistance leader Xanana Gusmao in a show of defiance against the Indonesian authorities.

"*I want to start a new period of peaceful relations with the people of Indonesia, including the Government of Indonesia and the Indonesian armed forces*" he (Bishop Belo) told a packed gathering of Timorese, Indonesian and foreign journalists. "I appeal to the Indonesian Government to (work for) the cause of establishing a just and peaceful society in East Timor, where the birthright of each person to live peacefully in freedom and dignity is given and respected.

"*As a religious leader, I'm ready to cooperate with whoever is really committed to efforts for peace in East Timor - peace based on truth, justice and love*".

Bishop Belo said that "*freedom from fear and respect for dialogue were a prerequisite necessary to overcome the barriers that had been built up between Indonesians and the local population*".

While he acknowledged the Indonesian Government's development effort in East Timor, he said Jakarta had to understand that no development could be fully appreciated when it was carried out "*without the responsible participation of the local population and at the expense of their freedom and dignity*".

As a Bishop, he said, he had a moral duty to speak as the voice of the poor and for those who were "*intimidated or terrorised*" and who could not speak for themselves.

The Australian
1996/11/26

LE MONDE / SAMEDI 19 OCTOBRE 1996 / 17.

Timor-Oriental : un plan pour la paix

par José Ramos-Horta

Première étape (un à deux ans):
ouvrir des pourparlers entre l'Indonésie et le Portugal, sous les auspices du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, et avec la participation de représentants de Timor Oriental, afin d'aboutir à un cessez-le-feu; libérer les prisonniers politiques; réduire les effectifs militaires et administratifs indonésiens; retirer les armements; étendre les activités du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge; organiser un recensement de la population; autoriser les activités des agences des Nations Unies spécialisées dans le développement, la santé publique et la protection de l'environnement; rétablir les droits fondamentaux de l'Homme; lever les restrictions sur l'usage du portugais et du tetum, la langue locale; créer une commission des droits de l'homme indépendante; nommer un représentant du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, résidant au Timor Oriental. En retour, les forces de la résistance timoraise cesseraient toutes les hostilités contre l'Indonésie et tout acte visant à embarasser Djakarta.

Deuxième étape (cinq ans après la fin de la première):
cette étape correspondrait à une phase transitoire d'autonomie pendant laquelle les Timorais se gouverneraient eux-mêmes démocratiquement à travers leurs institutions locales. Une assemblée serait élue lors d'un scrutin supervisé par les Nations Unies. Elle élirait un gouverneur du Timor Oriental. Elle aurait, entre autres, le pouvoir de légiférer sur l'investissement, la propriété, l'immigration et le commerce extérieur.

Pendant cette deuxième phase, toutes les troupes indonésiennes, ainsi qu'un nouveau contingent de fonctionnaires indonésiens, se retireraient. Le territoire ne serait pas doté d'une armée propre, mais seulement d'une force de police organisée par les Nations Unies et placée sous l'autorité du gouverneur. Cette étape pourrait être prolongée avec le consentement mutuel de l'Indonésie et de la population timoraise s'exprimant par référendum.

Troisième étape:
Dans un délai d'un an, un référendum d'autodétermination serait organisé sous la tutelle des Nations Unies. La population aurait à choisir entre la libre association avec l'Indonésie, l'intégration dans l'Indonésie ou l'indépendance.

J'ai écrit personnellement à M. Suharto en mars 1994 pour l'assurer que nous respecterions scrupuleusement le choix, quel qu'il soit, exprimé librement par la majorité du peuple du Timor Oriental. Nous avons tenté à de nombreuses reprises d'ouvrir un dialogue avec le Gouvernement indonésien à propos de notre plan. Jusqu'à présent on nous a ignorés. Néanmoins nous restons ouverts à des négociations.

Il est temps pour l'Indonésie de faire preuve de courage et d'ouvrir un dialogue constructif et sincère pour résoudre le conflit du Timor Oriental et corriger ainsi les erreurs du passé.

Le Monde
1996/10/19

Les évêques indonésiens abordent la question de Timor Oriental

Dans leur dernière lettre pastorale du 12 février 1997, les évêques indonésiens ont abordé la question de Timor Oriental. Lors d'une conférence de presse qui a eu lieu le 2 février, le cardinal Julius Darmaatmadja a présenté leur position à ce sujet. Les évêques appellent toutes les parties impliquées à consacrer tous leurs efforts afin d'apporter le bien être à la population locale et de favoriser la paix en tenant compte du caractère spécifique de la situation culturelle, religieuse et historique de l'ancienne colonie portugaise. Le cardinal a ajouté que c'est la population locale qui doit être partie prenante du dialogue destiné à régler la question de Timor et non des tierces parties prétendant la représenter. Interrogé sur la raison qui a poussé les évêques à évoquer la question de Timor dans leur lettre pastorale, le cardinal a répondu: "*Parce que la situation ne change guère... il est grand temps d'écouter les aspirations de la population, ce qu'elle ne veut pas et ce qu'elle désire*".

Églises d'Asie - N°237 - 16 février 1997

Indonesian "*security approach*" fails to solve East Timor woes, "*an open dialogue is essential*" said the cardinal of Jakarta

JAKARTA, Feb 1 (AFP) - **Indonesia's "*security approach*" in East Timor has failed to reduce tension in the disputed territory, the Catholic Church warned here Saturday.**

Cardinal Justinus Darmaatmaja said Jakarta's actions in East Timor had done little to address the territory's problems and called for dialogue to end a stand-off which is now in its 22nd year.

"*The situation there is still the same after 20 years,*" Darmaatmaja told a press conference.

"*It is clear that many still do not want to join (Indonesia). These people have been handled with the security approach, with all its consequences*".

"*If this does not change I am afraid that the younger generation... won't easily respect and join Indonesia. They will inherit hate.*"

Indonesian troops invaded the former Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1975 and formally annexed it the following year, a move never recognized by the United Nations or most states, including the Vatican.

Indonesian troops have since kept a tight grip on the territory, a source of constant criticism by observers who accuse officials of frequently arbitrarily detaining and torturing East Timorese.

Observers have identified one of the main problems in East Timor as the high level of discontent among local youths.

Since September 1993, 115 East Timorese, mostly youths, have left for Portugal after seeking sanctuary in embassies in Jakarta.

Darmaatmaja called for the inclusion of all East Timorese in finding a solution for the territory.

"*Let's hear openly what their (the East Timorese's) grievances are, what their laments are. An open dialogue is essential and do not sharpen differences of opinions with a firm hand,*" he said.

While Jakarta claims it has seven battalions in East Timor, of between 600 and 650 men per battalion, western military sources say there are up to nine battalions there, totalling 15.000 to 20.000 soldiers, plus irregular troops such as intelligence officers.

While almost 90 percent of Indonesia's 200 million people are Moslems, the majority of East Timor's 800.000 inhabitants are Roman Catholic.

In December, the Nobel Peace Prize was jointly awarded to East Timorese Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo and exiled freedom activist José Ramos Horta, once again putting East Timor´s troubles in the international spotlight.

Jakarta has discouraged the vocal Bishop from making political comments or engaging in political activities.

AFP 1996/2/1

No substitute for freedom in Timor

Edward Clancy

"I have just spent a week in East Timor ... accompanied by Bishop Belo... He is a very pastoral Bishop and greatly loved by his people ...

There is a strong all-pervasive military presence on the island. ...

Native East Timorese do not benefit proportionately from the development ... most of the jobs go to people brought in from Indonesia ... material improvements are no substitute for freedom, dignity and independence ...

The world cannot in good conscience find the situation in East Timor acceptable. ... the UN cannot simply put East Timor in the "too hard" basket and do nothing. ...

Australia could set political pragmatism and commercial interests aside, make a stand for principles and justice ... and give a lead to the rest of the world ..."
(by Cardinal Clancy, Archbishop of Sydney,

The Australian
27 August 1996)

Australian Senate unanimous in support for East Timor

Canberra (AP) The Senate on Wednesday unanimously supported thr right of East Timor's people to self-determination, a day after Indonesian President Suharto paid a visit to the annexed province.
Greens party Sen. Bob Brown said both government and opposition senators had effectively voted against their parties' policies by backing the motion.
Australia is one of the few nations that recognises Indonesian rule over East Timor, which it annexed in 1976 after an invasion. Most countries have followed the U.N.'s policy of refusing to recognize the takeover.
The Senate motion also congratulated East Timor's Nobel Peace Prize winners Bishop Carlos Belo and José Ramos-Horta.
Despite the vote, a spokesman for Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the Government's policy is unchanged.
(...) Part of the motion called on the governmemnt to support self-determination for East Timor, and to represent forcefully to the Indonesian government Australia's support for democracy and the rule of law in Indonesia.

The Japan Times
17/10/1996

European Parliament

The European Parliament
- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in East Timor,
A. having regard to the illegal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia,
B. whereas the Indonesian military repression of the people of East Timor is continuing and has been stepped up over recent days, particularly against young people, (...)
1. Condemns once more the Indonesian military repression of the people of East Timor and expresses its solidarity with the victims and their families;
2. Deplores the provocative acts perpetrated against freedom of religion;
3. Reaffirms its solidarity with the people of East Timor in their fight for self-determination and its condemnation of the illegal occupation of East Timor;
4. Calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners, including Xanana Gusmão;
5. Reaffirms its support for the UN-sponsored negotiations now underway aimed at resolving the problems on the basis of respect for human rights and the right to self-determination...
6. Calls on the Indonesian Government to respond to the initiative of the Portuguese Government.

Resolution on the situation in East Timor and the violation of human rights in Indonesia (20/6/96)

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

The Heads of State and Government of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and São Tomé and Principe (...) reiterated their firm commitment to undertaking concerted actions to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Territory, and to secure a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the East Timor question, within a framework of respect for the legitimate rights and aspirations of its people, in accordance with international Law.

Conference of the Heads of State and Government from constituent countries of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries - CPLP (Lisbon, 17 July 1996).

Africa-Caribbean-Pacific - European Union Joint Assembly

The ACP-EU Joint Assembly
- meeting in Luxembourg from 23 to 27 September 1996
- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in East Timor,
A. having regard to the illegal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia,
B. whereas the Indonesian military repression of the people of East Timor is still going on and has been stepped up in the last few days, particularly in the case of young people, (...)
1. Condemns once again the Indonesian military repression of the people of East Timor and expresses its solidarity with the victims and their families;
2. Deplores the provocative action against freedom of worship;
3. Reaffirms its solidarity with the people of East Timor in its campaign for self-determination and its condemnation of the illegal occupation of East Timor;
4. Calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners, including Mr Xanana Gusmão;
5. Reaffirms its support for the action taken under the aegis of the United Nations to resolve the situation, in respect of human rights and the right to self-determination...
ACP-EU Joint Assembly

Resolution on the occupation of East Timor by Indonésia, September 1996

Ibero-American Conference

(...) We continue to support the UN Secretary General's efforts to find a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the East Timor question, within the scope of norms and principles of international law.

VI Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American Conference, Santiago and Viña del Mar, 7 to 11 November 1996.

Parlement Européen

Le Parlement Européen

A. Considérant que l'Acte Final de la Conférence de Vienne sur les Droits de l'Homme (juillet 1993) a réitéré l'universalité, l'indivisibilité et l'interdépendance des droits de l'Homme,

B. Considérant que quelques États-Membres de l'Union sont actualment membres de la Commission des Droits de l'Homme des Nations Unies,

1.- Appelle au Conseil et aux États-Membres pour qu'ils condamnent fermement tous les cas de violation des droits de l'Homme signalés dans les résolutions du Parlement Européen, en particulier la situation des Droits de l'Homme en Chine, en Colombie, en Indonésie. en Iran, en Irak, au Myanmar, en Nigéria, au Soudan, au Timor-Oriental et en Turquie.

Résolution sur la 53ème session de la Commission des Droits de l'Homme (28/2/97)

Pope urges 'prompt' E. Timor settlement

By LINAWATI SIDARTO

Baucau, East Timor, Wednesday.

Pope John Paul called today for a "*prompt*" internationally recognised settlement for East Timor, which has caused problems for Indonesia since it seized the troubled territory 21 years ago.

His call came in a message for the inauguration of East Timor's second bishop, Basilio do Nascimento, which was read out at ceremony in Baucau's cathedral.

"*The Holy See together with the international comunity hopes that a prompt and truly just, globally and internationally accepted solution will be found for the painful and complex question of East Timor*" the Pope said in a statement for the ceremony. (...)

The Pope said a prompt solution could be achieved "*by way of sincere and fruitful dialogue between all parties involved*".

The Canberra Times
20/3/97

Pope demands 'true justice' for E Timor

The Australian
20/3/97

By PATRICK WALTERS in Baucau, East Timor

EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

COMMON POSITION
of 25 June 1996

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article J.2 thereof,
HAS DEFINED THE FOLLOWING COMMON POSITION

Article 1

The European Union, referring to its previous declarations on the situation in East Timor, intends to pursue the following aims:

1. to contribute to the achievement by dialogue of a fair, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor, which fully respects the interests and legitimate aspirations of the Timorese people, in accordance with international law;
2. to improve the situation in East Timor regarding respect for human rights in the territory.

Article 2

To pursue the aims referred to in Article 1, the European Union:

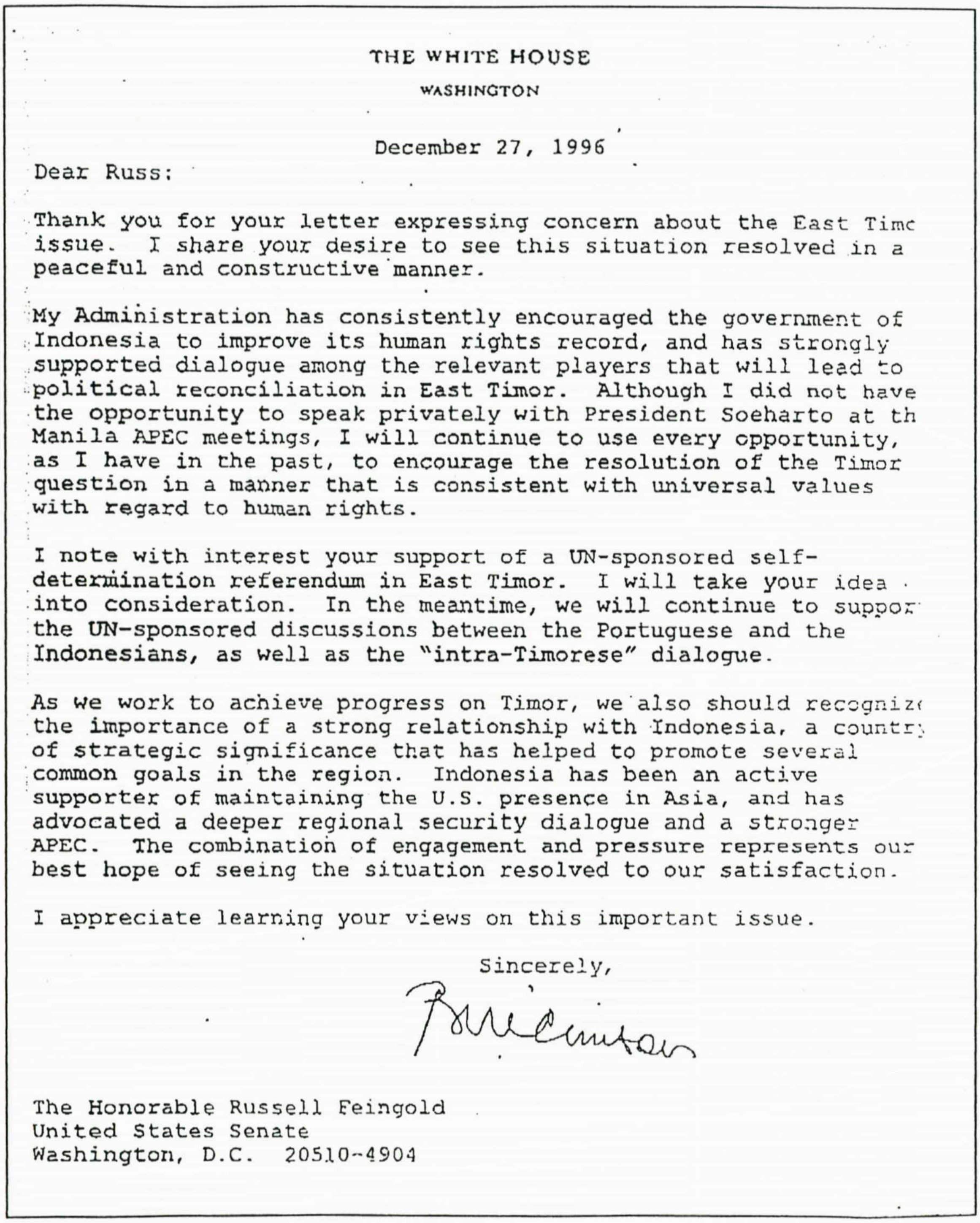
1. supports the initiatives undertaken in the United Nations framework which may contribute to resolving this question;
2. supports in particular the current talks under the aegis of the United Nations Secretary-General with the aim of achieving the solution referred to in point 1 of Article 1, effective progress towards which continues to be hampered by serious obstacles;
3. encourages the continuation of intra-Timorese meetings in the context of this process of dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations;
4. calls upon the Indonesian Government to adopt effective measures leading to a significant improvement in the human rights situation in East Timor, in particular by implementing fully the relevant decisions adopted in this connection by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;
5. supports all appropriate action with the objective of generally strengthening respect for human rights in East Timor and substantially improving the situation of its people, by means of the resources available to the European Union and aid for action by NGOs.

Article 3

The Council will be responsible for the follow-up concerning this common position.

I note with interest your support of a UN-sponsored self-determination referendum in East Timor. I will take your idea into consideration.

(Letter from Bill Clinton to Senator Russell Feingold)



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 27, 1996

Dear Russ:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the East Timc issue. I share your desire to see this situation resolved in a peaceful and constructive manner.

My Administration has consistently encouraged the government of Indonesia to improve its human rights record, and has strongly supported dialogue among the relevant players that will lead to political reconciliation in East Timor. Although I did not have the opportunity to speak privately with President Soeharto at th Manila APEC meetings, I will continue to use every opportunity, as I have in the past, to encourage the resolution of the Timor question in a manner that is consistent with universal values with regard to human rights.

I note with interest your support of a UN-sponsored self-determination referendum in East Timor. I will take your idea into consideration. In the meantime, we will continue to suppor the UN-sponsored discussions between the Portuguese and the Indonesians, as well as the "intra-Timorese" dialogue.

As we work to achieve progress on Timor, we also should recogniz the importance of a strong relationship with Indonesia, a countr of strategic significance that has helped to promote several common goals in the region. Indonesia has been an active supporter of maintaining the U.S. presence in Asia, and has advocated a deeper regional security dialogue and a stronger APEC. The combination of engagement and pressure represents our best hope of seeing the situation resolved to our satisfaction.

I appreciate learning your views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

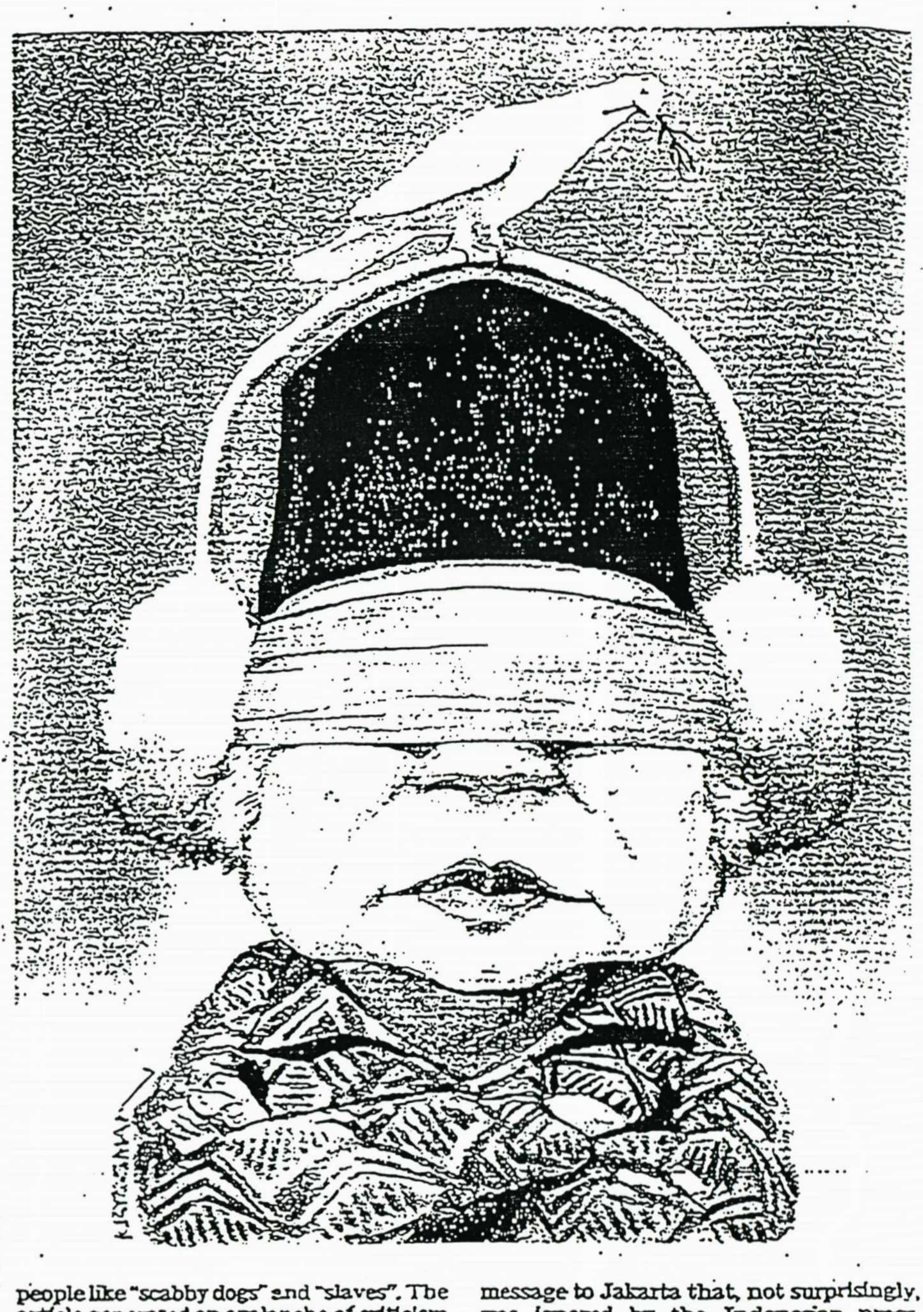
Bill Clinton

The Honorable Russell Feingold
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4904

No peace for Nobel bishop

Jakarta remains largely unmoved by new pressures for a peaceful settlement in East Timor

Patrick Walters



IT was late 1994 and we were discussing the perennial problem of East Timor. The senior Indonesian general grew more animated when the subject turned to the outspoken Catholic Bishop of East Timor, Monsignor Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo. "Belo causes us a lot of trouble. If only we could be rid of him, things would be a lot easier for us in Timor," he volunteered.

Two years on, things are no better for Jakarta in East Timor. The general has retired and the bishop has gone on to achieve international fame. At home Belo remains a thorn in the side of key figures in the Indonesian armed forces and the Indonesian Government.

When Belo's Nobel award was announced, an ungracious Indonesian Government chose to ignore Indonesia's first Nobel laureate and launched into a tirade of denunciation of the Nobel committee and the other recipient of the award, Jose Ramos Horta. But now, more than ever before, Belo is a person Jakarta cannot afford to spurn if a peaceful, lasting settlement of the Timor problem is to be secured.

With the award of the Nobel Peace Prize, Belo has assumed a new public role in East Timor as well as being catapulted on to the international stage. For East Timorese, he has emerged as their leading political champion and spiritual leader. As he said this week, he had a moral duty to speak "for the voice of the poor and the simple people who, when intimidated or terrorised, cannot defend themselves or make their suffering voiced".

Soon after Belo won the Nobel Prize last month, the Indonesian armed forces helped initiate a campaign of denigration in the Indonesian press against the bishop over an interview he gave to Der Spiegel magazine.

The interview, conducted in April and only published last month, quoted him saying Indonesian troops treated his people like "scabby dogs" and "slaves". The article generated an avalanche of criticism of the bishop from Indonesian military and political leaders, anti-Belo demonstrations in Jakarta and calls for him to be censured.

The "get Belo" campaign badly backfired on the Government, producing an outpouring of support for him in East Timor. When he returned to Dili on November 16, Belo was greeted by the biggest crowd seen in Dili since the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1989.

Last Monday, at a packed press conference in Dili, Belo delivered an important message to Jakarta that, not surprisingly, was ignored by the Indonesian press, which chose only to report his detailed rebuttal and apology concerning the contentious Der Spiegel report.

"After being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize of 1996, I want to start a new period of peaceful relations with the people of Indonesia, including the Government and the armed forces," Belo said.

"Mistakes have been made by all sides which resulted in the creation of a barrier of cultural and psychological incomprehension.

"Free, sincere and respectable dialogue

The Australian
1996.11.28

Indonesia has intensified repression since the award of the Nobel Peace Prize.

I was studying in the University of Dili and, like many of my colleagues, took part in the demonstrations, through which the East Timorese expressed their support for Monsignor Belo, when he returned from Oslo on 24 December. On that occasion, the Indonesian army did not intervene as it had done in 1991 at Santa Cruz. The Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, General Abdul Rivai, even made conciliatory announcements about a new approach to demonstrations. Meanwhile, however, the military intensified its persecution of suspected organisers of the demonstrations.

During the day, but especially at night, Indonesian military, Intel police (political intelligence services) and Gada Paksi (civilian militia force which supports integration and is organised by the military) started to conduct street searches for all the suspects, storming into the homes of relatives and friends of the person being sought. We were living in constant fear of being arrested or killed by these groups. Several times, I heard shooting at night. Once was on 27 December in the Kulu-Hun neighbourhood. I was told later that a Timorese man of Chinese origin had been killed. Another time was on 9 January in the Manleuana neighbourhood. After that incident, I heard that two young Timorese had been killed. One of the victims was called Domingos, but I never found out the name of the other one. It is hard to obtain detailed information because everyone, especially the relatives, are warned that they will be killed if they report anything to the International Red Cross team in Dili.

(testimony of Rui Ximenes -Timorese refugee in Lisbon)

Not only the guerrillas, but the townspeople and villagers too, have begun to realise that the Nobel Peace Prize, awarded to Bishop Ximenes Belo and José Ramos Horta, was regarded by the Indonesian authorities and their killing machine as provocation by the international community and, as a result, they have responded with indiscriminate retaliation against civilians and guerrillas alike.

We have also come to realise that the atrocities being committed against the civilian population in every corner of our Fatherland, and the intense military operations aimed at exterminating the Guerrillas up here in the mountains, are all no more than Indonesia's way of putting to the test Portugal's capacity, and that of the other countries which defend Human Rights, Justice, Peace and Liberty in the world. They are intended, above all, to put to the test the International Community's and UN's capacity to take serious, definitive and important decisions and measures with regard to the Jakarta Government and its killing apparatus, in order to put an end to all this tragedy and all this crime to which our people has been, and continues to be victim, a people that has been fighting for nearly 22 years for its right to self-determination and independence - a right which the Indonesian authorities and their killing machine have denied us by their shameful military occupation of our Fatherland.

Extract from a report, dated 31 December 1996,
from the Guerrilla Resistance to Indonesian occupation of East Timor

The Indonesian Government has no co-operated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

...Deeply concerned at the critical situation resulting from the military intervention of the armed forces of Indonesia in Portuguese Timor...

- ***Strongly deplores the military intervention of the armed forces of Indonesia in Portuguese Timor,***
- ***Calls upon the Government of Indonesia to desist from further violation of the territorial integrity of Portuguese Timor and to withdraw without delay its armed forces from the Territory in order to enable the people of the Territory freely to exercise their right to self-determination and independence...***

(resolution 3485 of 12 December 1975)

The Security Council,

...Gravely concerned at the deterioration of the situation in East Timor,

Gravely concerned also at the loss of life and conscious of the urgent need to avoid further bloodshed in East Timor,

Deploring the intervention of the armed forces of Indonesia in East Timor...

- ***Calls upon the Government of Indonesia to withdraw without delay all its forces from the Territory...***

(resolution 384 of 22 December 1975)

The Security Council,

...Conscious of the urgent need to bring to an end the continued situation of tension in East Timor,

- ***Calls upon the Government of Indonesia to withdraw without further delay all its forces from the Territory...***

(resolution 389 of 22 April 1976)

The General Assembly,

...Deeply concerned at the critical situation resulting from the military intervention of the armed forces of Indonesia in East Timor...

- ***Strongly deplores the persistent refusal of the Government of Indonesia to comply with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3485 (XXX) and Security Council resolutions 384 (1975) and 389 (1976).***
- ***Rejects the claim that East Timor has been integrated into Indonesia, inasmuch as the people of the Territory have not been able to exercise freely their right to self-determination and independence,***
- ***Calls upon the Government of Indonesia to withdraw all its forces from the Territory...***
- ***Draws the attention of the Security Council, in conformity with article 11, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, to the critical situation in the Territory of East Timor and recommends that it should take all effective steps for the immediate implementation of its resolutions 384 (1975) and 389 (1976) with a view to securing the full exercise by the people of East Timor of their right to self-determination and independence...***

(resolution 31/53 of 1 December 1976)

The General Assembly,

...Deeply concerned at the continuing critical situation in the Territory, resulting from the persistent refusal on the part of the Government of Indonesia to comply with the provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council...

- *Draws the attention of the Security Council, in conformity with article 11, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, to the critical situation in the Territory of East Timor and recommends that it should take all effective steps for the immediate implementation of its resolutions 384 (1975) and 389 (1976) with a view to securing the full exercise by the people of East Timor of their right to self-determination and independence...*

(resolution 32/34 of 28 November 1977)

The General Assembly,

...Deeply concerned at the continuing critical situation in the Territory, resulting from the persistent refusal on the part of the Government of Indonesia to comply with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council...

- *Draws the attention of the Security Council, in conformity with article 11, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, to the critical situation in the Territory of East Timor and recommends that it take all effective steps for the implementation of its resolutions 384 (1975) and 389 (1976) with a view to securing the full exercise by the people of East Timor of their right to self-determination and independence...*

(resolution 33/39 of 13 December 1978)

The General Assembly,

- *Expresses its deepest concern at the suffering of the people of East Timor as a result of the situation now prevailing in the Territory...*
- *Requests the Secretary General to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session...*

(resolution 34/40 of 21 November 1979)

The General Assembly,

...Deeply concerned at the continuing suffering of the people of East Timor as a result of the situation of hostilities still prevailing in the Territory...

- *Declares that the people of East Timor must be enabled freely to determine their own future within the framework of the United Nations*
- *Expresses its deepest concern at the continuing suffering of the people of East Timor as a result of the situation still prevailing in the Territory...*

(resolution 35/27 of 11 November 1980)

The General Assembly,

...Deeply concerned at the suffering of the people of East Timor and at reports of the critical situation resulting from the new outbreak of famine in the Territory...

- *Declares that the people of East Timor must be enabled to freely determine their own future on the basis of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and internationally accepted procedures,*
- *Calls upon all interested parties, namely Portugal, as the administering Power, and the representatives of the East Timorese people, as well as Indonesia, to co-operate fully with the United Nations with a view to guaranteeing the full exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of East Timor,*
- *Expresses its deepest concern at the reports of the critical situation resulting from the new outbreak of famine in East Timor and calls upon all specialised agencies and other organisations of the United Nations system, in particular the World Food Programme, the United Nations' Children's Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, immediately to assist, within their respective fields of competence, the people of the Territory...*

(resolution 36/50 of 24 November 1981)

When 8 years of UN resolutions had achieved nothing because the Indonesian Government systematically ignored them while the international community looked on complacently (even though some nations had sufficient power to enforce them), the General Assembly asked to Secretary General to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned, with a view to achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem, which would adhere to UN principles and its resolutions.

The General Assembly,

- ***Recognising the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the UN, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and other relevant UN resolutions,***
- ***having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to East Timor and other relevant documents,***
- ***Bearing in mind also its resolutions 3485 (XXX) of 12 December 1975, 31/53 of 1 December 1976, 32/34 of 28 November 1977, 33/39 of 13 December 1978, 34/40 of 21 November 1979, 35/27 of 11 November 1980 and 36/50 of 24 November 1981,***
- ***Concerned with the humanitarian situation prevailing in the Territory and believing that all efforts should be made by the international community to improve the living conditions of the people of East Timor and to guarantee to these people the effective enjoyment of their fundamental human rights,***

1. ***Requests the Secretary General to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned, with a view to exploring avenues for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;***
2. ***Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to keep the situation in the Territory under active consideration and to render all assistance to the Secretary General with a view to facilitating the implementation of the present resolution;***
3. ***Calls upon all specialised agencies and other organisations of the UN system, in particular the World Food Programme, the UN Children's Fund and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, immediately to assist, within their respective fields of competence, the people of East Timor, in close consultation with Portugal, as the administering Power...***

(resolution 37/30 of 23 November 1982)

4 - Synopsis of UNCHR chairman's statements in 1992 and 1994-1996 and UNCHR resolution in 1993.

	chairman's statement 4/3/1992	resolution 11/3/1993	chairman's statement 8/3/1994	chairman's statement 1/3/1995	chairman's statement 25/4/1996
A	. The Commission on Human Rights notes with serious concern the human rights situation in East Timor, and strongly deplores the violent incident in Dili, on 12 November 1991, which resulted in the loss of lives and injuries of a large number of civilians and in many unaccounted for.(1)	. Expresses its deep concern at reports of continuing human rights violations in East Timor.(1)	. The Commission on Human Rights discussed the human rights situation in East Timor. The Commission notes with concern continuing allegations of human rights violations in East Timor, while recognising the positive measures taken by the Government of Indonesia to improve the situation.(1)	. The commission expresses its deep concern over the continuing reports of violations of human rights in East Timor, including the recently reported increased tensions and the violent incident where six people were killed. It welcomes the decision of the Indonesian Government to investigate this incident and to make public its findings.(1)	. The Commission on Human Rights discussed the human rights situation in East Timor.(1) . The Commission continues to follow with deep concern the reports on violations of human rights in East Timor (2)
B	. The Commission welcomes the early action of the Indonesian Government in setting up a national commission of inquiry and the prompt response which its advance report elicited from the highest Indonesian authorities; . Expresses its hope that, as announced by the Indonesian Government, further investigation into the action of the security personnel on November 12, 1991, and into the fate of those unaccounted for, will clarify the remaining discrepancies, namely on the number of people killed and those missing.(2)	. Calls upon the Government of Indonesia to honour fully its commitments undertaken in the statement on the situation of human rights in East Timor, agreed by consensus by the Commission on Human Rights at its 48th session.(5) . Recalls that the Commission has commended the decision of the Government of Indonesia to set up an inquiry commission but regrets that the Indonesian investigation into the actions of the members of its security personnel on 12/11/91, from which resulted loss life, injuries and disappearances, failed to clearly identify all those responsible for these actions.(2) . Expresses its concern at the lack of information about the number of people killed on 12 November 1991 and at the persons still unaccounted for and urges the Government of Indonesia to account fully for those still missing since 12/11/91.(3)	. The Commission recalls the undertakings by the Government of Indonesia to promote human rights in East Timor and those contained in the consensus Chairman's Statement at its 48th session on the matter, and stresses the need to take further steps towards its implementation.(2) . A matter of preoccupation to the Commission is the incomplete information concerning the number of people killed and the persons unaccounted for as a result of the Dili violent incident of 12 November 1991. While acknowledging the efforts made to account for those persons, the Commission calls upon the Government of Indonesia to continue its investigation on those still missing and the circumstances surrounding the matter.(3)	. A matter of preoccupation to the Commission is the incomplete information concerning the number of people killed and the persons still unaccounted for as a result of the Dili violent incident of 12 November 1991. While acknowledging the efforts made to account for those people, the Commission calls upon the Government of Indonesia to continue its investigation on those missing and the circumstances surrounding the matter.(3)	. The Commission recalls the undertakings by the Government of Indonesia to promote human rights in East Timor and those contained in Chairman's Statement at previous sessions on the matter.(3a)

C	. The Commission is encouraged by the recent announcement by the Indonesian authorities of disciplinary measures and military court proceedings regarding some members of its Armed Forces and urges the Indonesian Government to bring to trial and punish all those found responsible. Furthermore the Commission calls upon the Indonesian authorities to ensure that all civilians arrested on the occasion are treated humanely, that those brought to trial are assured of proper legal representation and fair trial and that those not involved in violent activities are released without delay .(3)	. Regrets the disparity in the severity of sentences imposed on those civilians not indicted for violent activities - who should have been released without delay - on the one hand, and to the military involved in the violent incident, on the other,(4) . Also calls upon the Government of Indonesia to ensure that all the East Timorese in custody, including main public figures, be treated humanely and their rights fully respected, that all trials be fair, just, public and recognize the right to proper legal representation, in accordance with international humanitarian law, and that those not involved in violent activities be released with delay.(6)

. It calls upon the Indonesian authorities to ensure that those East Timorese in custody are treated humanely, and that their rights are fully respected, and to take further appropriate measures aimed at the early release of those convicted.(5b)	. It calls upon the Indonesian authorities to ensure that all those in custody are treated humanely, and their rights fully respected, and to take further appropriate measures aimed at the early release of those convicted.(4b)	. The Commission stressed the need to take further steps towards their implementation, including the early release of East Timorese detained or convicted and the further clarification of the circumstances surrounding the Dili incident of 1991.(3b)

D	. The Commission welcomes the appointment of Mr. Amos Wako, as Personal Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations, to obtain clarification on the tragic events of November 12, 1991 and the willingness of the Indonesian authorities to cooperate fully with him.(4a) . The Commission urges the Government of Indonesia to improve the human rights situation in East Timor: commends the report entitled "Visit by the Special Rapporteur to Indonesia and East Timor" of its Special Rapporteur on Torture folowing his visit at the invitation of the Indonesian Government; urges the Indonesian authorities to take the necessary steps to implement its recommendations and looks forward to a report thereon;(5a)	. Encourages once again the Indonesian authorities to take the necessary steps to implement the recommendations presented by the Special Rapporteur on the question of Torture in his report (E/CN.4/1992/17/Add.1) folowing his visit to Indonesia and East Timor and to keep the Special Rapporteur informed of the progress made towards their implementation. (8) . Urges the Government of Indonesia to invite the Special Rapporteur on the question of Torture, the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Working Group on Enforced or Involontary Disappearances to visit East Timor and to facilitate the discharge of their mandates.(9) . Welcomes the agreement given by the Government of Indonesia to the proposal of the Secretary General for a new visit to Indonesia and East Timor by his Personal Envoy in the coming months, and invites the Secretary General to consider transmitting the full reports of Mr. Wako's previous and next visit to the Commission on Human Rights. (10)	. The Commission welcomes the undertaking by the Government of Indonesia to invite the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions to visit East Timor and to submit his report to its fifty-first session. In the same spirit, the Commission takes note of the intention of the Government of Indonesia to continue to cooperate with other relevant thematic special Rapporteurs and/or working groups and to invite them to visit East Timor when necessary for the fulfillment of their duties.(7)	. The Commission welcomes the visit to East Timor in July 1994 by the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, and the cooperation granted to him by the Indonesian authorities. The Commission takes note with concern of his report (doc E/CN.4/1995/61/Add.1) and urges the Indonesian Government to further implement its undertakings to promote human rights in East Timor, and those contained in the consensus Chairman's Statement at its 48th and 50th sessions.(2) . The Commission welcomes the undertaking by the Government of Indonesia to invite the High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit East Timor in 1995 and to submit his report to the Commission at its 52nd session. The Commission further takes note of the intention of the Government of Indonesia to continue to cooperate with the relevant thematic Special Rapporteurs and/or Working Groups of the Commission on Human Rights, and to invite them, taking into consideration their requests to visit East Timor when necessary for the fulfillment of their duties.(6)	. The Commission welcomes the visit to East Timor of the High Commissioner (HC) for Human Rights, Mr. José Ayala Lasso, on 6 December 1995, and stressed the importance of this visit in the context of last year's Chairman's Statement. The Commission notes with satisfaction the understanding reached between the Indonesian authorities and the HC concerning the upgrading of the current MOI (Memorandum of Intention) on the technical cooperation in the field of human rights, signed in Jakarta on 26 October 1994, into an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). In this context, it was also provisionally agreed to look into the possibility of the HC assigning a programme officer within the office of UNDP (UN Development Programme) in Jakarta in order to follow-up the implementation of the technical cooperation agreement. This officer would also have regular access to East Timor.(5) . The Commission welcomes the intention of the Government of Indonesia to continue to cooperate with the Commission on HR and its mechanisms as well as its intention to invite a thematic rapporteur in 1997.(6)

E	. Calls on the Indonesian Government to facilitate access to East Timor for additional humanitarian organizations and for human rights organizations;(5b)	. Welcomes the greater access recently granted by the Indonesian authorities to human rights and humanitarian organizations, and calls upon the Indonesian authorities to expand this access further;(7)	. The Commission expressed the hope that the cooperation between the ICRC and the Government of Indonesia will continue.(5a) The Commission is encouraged by greater access granted by the Indonesian authorities to human rights and humanitarian organizations as well as international media and calls upon them to continue this policy of expanding access.(6)	. The Commission expresses the hope that the cooperation between the ICRC and the Government of Indonesia will continue.(4a) . The Commission recognises the greater access granted by the Indonesian authorities to East Timor and calls upon them to continue this policy including the granting of access to human rights and humanitarian organizations and international media.(5)	. The Commission notes with satisfaction the greater access recently granted by the Indonesian authorities to East Timor to international media and humanitarian organizations and trusts that it will be expanded further to human rights organizations.(4)
F	. The Commission encourages the Secretary General to continue his good offices for achieving a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the question of East Timor.(4b)	. Also welcomes the resumption of talks on the question of East Timor and encourages the Secretary General to continue his good offices for achieving a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the question of East Timor.(11)	. The Commission welcomes the current dialogue between Indonesia and Portugal under the auspices of the Secretary General and encourages him to continue his good offices in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the question of East Timor In this context, the Commission stresses the importance of the understanding reached on confidence building measures between the two governments and welcomes the recent mission undertaken by Mr. Francesc Vendrell as representative of the Secretary General in order to promote further progress in that dialogue.(9)	. The Commission welcomes the result of the fifth round of meetings of the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal held under the auspices of the Secretary General on 9 January 1995 in Geneva and encourages the Secretary General to continue his good offices in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the question of East Timor. In this context, the Commission stresses the importance of continuing the efforts to promote confidence building measures between the two governments. The Commission welcomes the Secretary General's intention, as expressed in his statement of 9 January 1995, to facilitate and offer the necessary arrangements for the convening of an all inclusive intra-East Timorese dialogue.(7)	. The Commission welcomes the result of the seventh round of the tripartite dialogue between the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal under the auspices of the U.N. Secretary General on the question of East Timor, held in London on 16 January 1996 and encourages the S.G. to continue his good offices for achieving a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor.(7) . The Commission welcomes the informal bilateral meeting between President Soeharto and Prime Minister Guterres during the ASEM in Bangkok on 29 February 1996 and expresses the hope that it will contribute positively to the ongoing tripartite dialogue. The Commission also welcomes the holding of the all-inclusive intra-Timorese dialogue in Burg Schlaining, Austria, from 19 to 22 March 1996.(8)

G	. and requests the Secretary General to continue to follow closely the human rights situation in East Timor and to keep the Commission informed at its 49th session.(5c)	. Decides to consider the situation in East Timor at its fiftieth session on the basis of the reports of the Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups and that of the Secretary General, which would include an analytical compilation of all information received from, inter alia, Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.(12)	. The Commission requests the Secretary General to keep it informed on the situation of human rights in East Timor and will consider it at its fifty-first session.(10)	. The Commission requests the Secretary General to keep it informed on the situation of human rights in East Timor and will consider it at its fifty-second session.(8)	. The Commission requests the Secretary General to keep it informed on the situation of human rights in East Timor and will consider it at its fifty-third session.(9)
	. This statement will be included verbatim at the 48th session of the Commission.(6)	*(Resolution adopted by roll-call vote of 22 to 12, with 15 abstentions)*			

Notes :

1. The texts of the consensus statements and resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights have been split up in order to make comparison easier:

- A - General situation
- B - Indonesia's commitments (human rights, inquiry to find those responsible, disparities in the numbers of victims)
- C - Punishment of those responsible, treatment of detainees
- D - Visits by UN representatives
- E - Access to East Timor
- F - Secretary General's role
- G - Keeping the subject on the Commission's agenda

2. When necessary, the above paragraphs were taken out of their order in the original texts, so that paragraphs dealing with the same aspect could be placed side by side Some paragraphs were also split up for the same reason.

3. Numbers in parentheses at the end of each paragraph indicate the paragraph number in the original text. When a paragraph was split up because it dealt with more than one subject, a letter has been added after the respective number (e.g. 3a, 3b)

Comments :

In 1992, the UNCHR welcomed the appointment by President Suharto of an Indonesian National Human Rights Commission following the Santa Cruz massacre. However, the Commission never clarified what happened in Dili on 12 November 1991 and the days that followed.

The only positive step taken by the Indonesian Government towards honouring its commitments made at the UNCHR was to invite the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions to visit the territory. Nevertheless, not only has it has so far failed to implement the recommendations made by that Special Rapporteur, bu also those made by the Special Rapporteur on torture.

The Indonesian Government has still not established a UN human rights office in Jakarta, as it agreed to do in December 1995 during the visit of the High Commissioner fo Human Rights, Mr. José Ayala Lasso.

The new UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, seems eager to see progress made on the East Timor case which, since 1983, has been the subject of unfruitful negotiations between Portugal and Indonesia. His first move was to designate a special representative (former Pakistani Ambassador to the UN, Jamsheed Marker) to work exclusively on the process.

E. Timor independence leader meets U.N. chief

UNITED NATIONS (AP) In an unprecedented meeting, Nobel Peace Prize winner Jose Ramos-Horta assured Secretary General Kofi Annan Tuesday he would be flexible in talks with Indonesia over the status of East Timor.

It was the first time that a U.N. chief had received a leader of the movement seeking independence for East Timor, a former Portuguese colony that Indonesia annexed in 1976.

"We expressed to the secretary general total willingness to cooperate with him . . . in his efforts to find a just, comprehensive, internationally accepted solution to the problem of East Timor," said Ramos-Horta.

"We have stated to him that we are prepared to be flexible, to be creative, but also we will be very firm on the issue of self-determination," he added.

Ramos-Horta said the main obstacle to resolving the East Timor issue is Indonesian President Suharto. He said the leader is the "only one still alive today in office" who was directly involved in the 1975 invasion of East Timor.

The meeting was part of an effort to invigorate U.N. diplomatic efforts to resolve the 22-year dispute over East Timor, whose annexation was never recognized by the U.N.

A ninth round of U.N.-brokered talks on East Timor scheduled for December was called off after Annan's predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, was vetoed by the United States for a second term.

In an effort to revitalize the negotiations, Annan last month appointed Jamsheed Marker of Pakistan as a special envoy for East Timor. Last week, he met Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio and other officials in Lisbon.

He is due in Jakarta this month for meetings with Indonesian officials. He also plans to visit East Timor. Indonesia annexed the territory after intervening in a civil war among rival political factions that broke out when Portugal suddenly left in 1974.

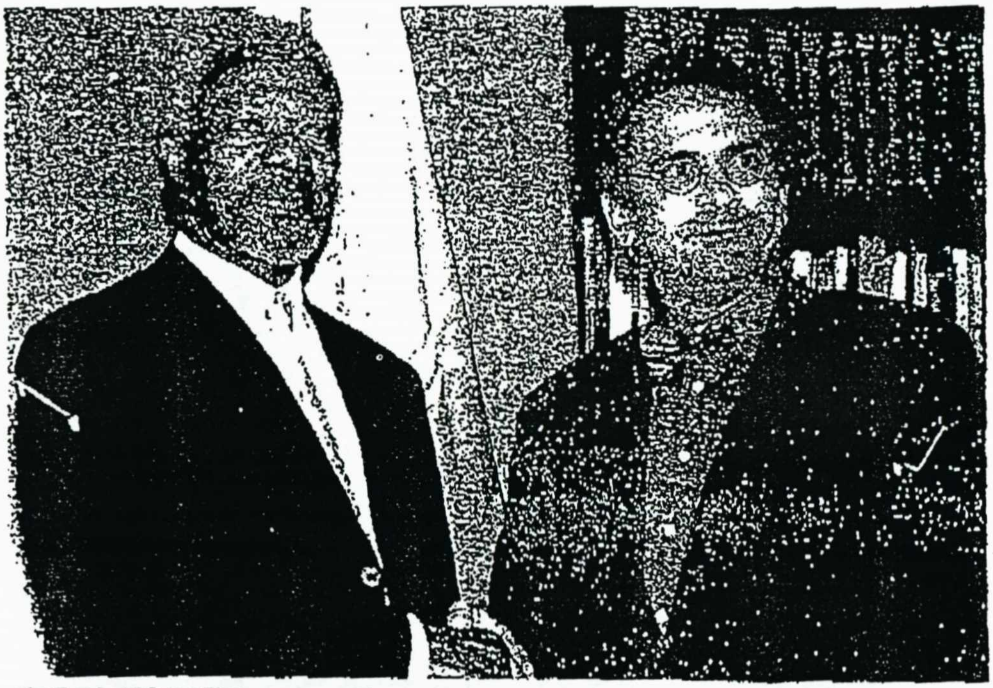
Ramos-Horta applauded Annan for his diplomatic efforts and appointing a special representative. The East Timorese leader said he assured Annan he would support U.N. mediation and try "to understand Indonesia's sensitivities."

"In that regard, we will d our utmost so as not to exacerbate the climate between u and the Indonesian side, Ramos-Horta said.

He expressed hope that th Indonesians would allo Marker to visit East Timorese rebel leader Xanana Gusmao, who was captured i 1992 and sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment for subversion.

Ramos-Horta said Indonesia would gain internationa stature by reaching a settlement over East Timor and b able to divert resources t combat the nation's other economic and social problems.

Ramos-Horta criticized th U.N. Commission for Huma Rights, saying it consistentl avoided a strong stand o East Timor for fear of offending Indonesia.



JOSE RAMOS-HORTA, leader of East Timor's independence movement, is greeted at the U.N Tuesday by Secretary General Kofi Annan (left) before they held talks. REUTER PHOTO

Table of contents

Editorial 1-2

Human Rights

- Prisoners 3-6
- Torture 7-8
- Asylum-seekers 9-10
- Report of US State Department 11-12

Nobel Peace Prize 13-18

Dialogue and Solutions

- Bishop Belo 19
- Ramos Horta's Peace Plan 20
- Indonesian Bishops 21
- Australia 22
- ACP-EU, European Parliament 23
- Portuguese-speaking countries, Ibero-American Conf. 24
- EU Common Position 25
- President Clinton 26

Indonesia uncooperative

- "No peace for Nobel bishop" 27
- Repression in East Timor 28
- Security Council and General Assembly 29-31
- UNCHR 32-36
- Promising new UN initiatives 37

Indice

Éditorial 1-2

Droits de l'Homme

- Prisonniers 3-6
- Torture 7-8
- Demandeurs d'Asile politique 9-10
- Rapport du Déartement d'État des USA 11-12

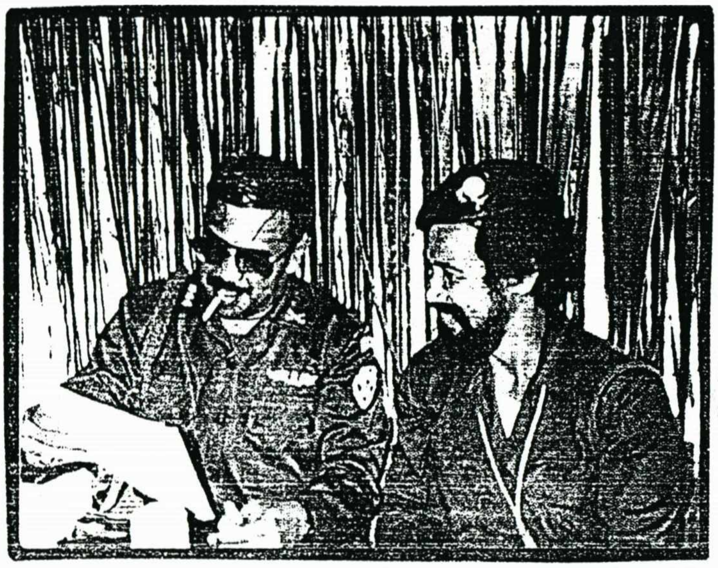
Prix Nobel de la Paix 13-18

Dialogue et Solutions

- Lévêque Belo 19
- Ramos Horta - Plan de Paix 20
- Évêques Indonésiens 21
- Australie 22
- ACP-EU, European Parliament, Vatican 23
- Pays de Langue portugaise,Conf. Ibero-Americaine .. 24
- Union Européenne - Position Commune 25
- Président Clinton 26

Indonésie non-coopérante

- "No peace for Nobel bishop" 27
- Répression au Timor Oriental 28
- Conseil de Sécurité et Assemblée Générale 29-31
- Commission des Droits de l'Homme 32-36
- Nouvelles initiatives de l'ONU 37



In March 1983, Xanana Gusmão, leader of the Timorese resistance, initiated talks with the Indonesian Military Commander in East Timor, Coronel Purwanto. He stipulated a condition for the continuation of the talks: that the UN Secretary General should be kept informed of them. The Indonesian Government rejected his condition.

In 1990, Robert Domm was the first foreign journalist to interview the resistance leader. Xanana Gusmão said at that time: "*I am ready to discuss, under the auspices of the UN and without pre-conditions, any project or idea for a solution*". The Indonesian Foreign Minister, Ali Alatas, rejected this proposal, stating: "This is an old song which doesn't merit any comment".

In December 1996, when the Nobel Peace Prize awards were announced, Konis Santana, who became Commander of the guerrilla forces after Xanana Gusmão's imprisonment, proposed an "indefinite ceasefire" on condition that "Indonesia agree to freeze the migration of its nationals to East Timor and reduce its military personnel". Once again, Indonesia rejected the appeal.

Compiled by
A Paz é Possível em Timor-Leste
Rua de Campolide, 215-4D
1070 Lisboa - Portugal